

Hassan II: Linkage established

RABAT (AP) — Iraq has succeeded in linking the Palestinian uprising to any settlement concerning its withdrawal from Kuwait, King Hassan II said Friday. Speaking to the Moroccan parliament, the monarch estimated that such a link would give Iraq an honourable way to pull its troops out of Kuwait. "This step is sufficient and has woken up the international conscience about a solution to the Palestinian problem," Hassan said. But Hassan urged Iraq not to push the link too far, advising it to rapidly pull out from Kuwait while setting for a "moral engagement" by the global community regarding the Palestinians. "Thus the Iraqi president will spare the Arab Nation a war that will destroy not only its military potential but its economic, industrial and agricultural infrastructure," the king said. Israel would profit from such a war, he said. Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have said any withdrawal from Kuwait must be accompanied by an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories. The demands gained international interest this week after Israeli police killed at least 30 Palestinians and wounded 150.

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Egyptian parliament speaker assassinated

CAIRO (Agencies) — Motorbike riders firing automatic rifles

King condoles Mubarak

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak condoling him over the assassination of Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub.

mowed down the speaker of Egypt's parliament and three security men outside a downtown Cairo hotel Friday, the interior minister said.

Abdul Halim Musa said the assassins killed Rifaat Al Mahjoub, 64, speaker of the People's Assembly, and the others, then fled as other security men returned their fire.

The incident occurred in front of the Semiramis hotel on a Nile-side corniche a block from the

U.S. embassy as Mahjoub rode a chartered Mercedes to an official function at another hotel about 2.5 kilometres down the river.

Musa told reporters that four assailants, all in their early 20s, attacked Mahjoub's Mercedes and an accompanying security car from two Suzuki motorbikes.

Three escaped on the bikes, he said. They rode through an underpass on the corniche in front of the hotel, speeding

against the traffic on the one-way street.

The fourth ran into a densely populated area nearby and disappeared. He wounded two bystanders who tried to stop him, Musa said.

"It could be an internal operation or an external one," Musa told reporters.

"They were waiting in front of the Semiramis. Mahjoub was on

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Kuwaitis gather for talks on future

JEDDAH (AP) — Some 700 Kuwaitis, representing all walks of life, are gathering for a conference Saturday to consider ways of intensifying efforts to end Iraq's takeover of their country and discuss its future after "liberation." The three-day Kuwaiti people's conference is to be held under the banner: "Liberation is our slogan, way and objective." The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will address the gathering, which Kuwaiti officials have said will hold wide-ranging discussions on the shape and structure of the emirate once Iraq has withdrawn its troops. The emir and his toppled government, dominated by the Al Sabah family, have been living in Saudi Arabia since the invasion. The Kuwaitis assembling for the conference have been invited from the various capitals in which they have been scattered in refuge over the last 10 weeks. Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and members of his cabinet will attend. Sheikh Saad has indicated that the agenda will range from future defence arrangements to the rights of Kuwaiti citizens.

Aoun escapes attack

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel General Michel Aoun escaped assassination in Beirut Friday as the Syrian army braced for an attack to evict him from his encircled enclave in Lebanon's Christian heartland, his radio station reported.

The broadcast said a gunman opened fire with a pistol as Aoun addressed thousands of supporters forming a human shield around the presidential palace in his enclave, surrounded by Lebanese government and Syrian troops poised to launch an attack and evict him.

The radio said the gunman fired two shots at Aoun but hit a bodyguard instead.

Soldiers and members of the crowd grabbed the attacker before he could fire again, the sources said, and he was taken for interrogation.

The report came amid tank battles between Aoun's forces and the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Sources said the sudden flare up, concentrated in the Ashrafieh and Nabaa neighbourhoods, forced hundreds of civilians to rush for cover in underground shelters.

"One tank shell is crashing into buildings in Ashrafieh and Nabaa every minute," said one resident in mountains east of Beirut. "Black smoke is billowing over the areas where few fires are raging in apartment blocks."

There was no immediate word on casualties.

The fighting came one day after thousands of Syrian troops, backed by tanks, deployed around east Beirut areas controlled by Aoun, who is denying the authority of elected President Elias Hrawi.

Hrawi had earlier asked for Syrian help in ousting Aoun.

Aoun's 15,000 mainly Christian troops earlier this year fought four months of bitter battles against the 40,000-strong LF. More than 1,200 people were killed and 3,200 wounded in the fighting.

Last year Aoun fought a bloody but unsuccessful six-month campaign to drive Syria and its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

France Friday urged all sides in the war to avoid further bloodshed by returning to the terms of an Arab-sponsored peace plan drafted in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last year.

"A new bloodbath must be avoided in Lebanon," Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told reporters.

Bernard said French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas had told the warring parties that "patience and a sense of responsibility must prevail in order to pursue procedures for conciliation within the framework of the Taif process."

France has also expressed upon General Aoun several times that his place is within the legal institutional framework. His contribution there could be decisive in order to allow a government based upon real union to emerge," Bernard added.

Aoun vowed Friday to the fighting if the Syrian army attacked his enclave.

"I am ready to die on the battlefield of honour rather than surrender. Re sure I shall die fighting," Aoun told cheering supporters.

Hrawi's army was ordered on maximum alert, and his troops joined the Syrian army in positions facing Aoun's lines along an eight-kilometre front from south Beirut to the central mountains east of the capital.

Aoun's coordination bureau, the body that handles the day-to-day life of civilians, ordered "general mobilisation" among the estimated 150,000 Christians in his enclave.

Military jets fitted with loudspeakers toured towns and villages of the 20-sq-kilometre area urging the population to "take up arms and defend yourselves against the aggression."

'U.S. plan' published

PARIS (Agencies) — A leading French news magazine, quoting an unidentified aide to U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, has published what it calls a Pentagon plan to drive Iraq from Kuwait in a four-day blitz next month.

The weekly L'Express, which has produced some investigative scoops in the past, gave a detailed breakdown of the plan, code-named "Operation Night Camel."

It said the attack would start "on a moonless night in November" with a strike by U.S. Stealth bombers against Iraqi radar and missile defences.

The operation's last stage would be the entry into Kuwait city of an Arab force composed of Egyptian, Moroccan and Syrian troops allied to the U.S., the magazine said.

The attack would commence with an air assault by U.S. warplanes dispatched from Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the aircraft carrier Independence, L'Express said.

The planes, including B-52s equipped with cruise missiles, would attempt to destroy Iraq's air power, neutralising radar systems, bombing missile bases and attacking air bases before Iraqi planes could launch counterattacks, L'Express said.

"By dawn, Iraq has lost all capacity to react," the magazine said. "This first phase would have lasted less than six hours."

In the second phase, L'Express said, warplanes and missiles would be used to "annihilate" Iraq's entire military-industrial complex. Targets would include nuclear facilities, chemical weapon depots, arms factories, command bunkers, and the main highway to Kuwait.

Also during this phase, an air attack would be mounted on Iraqi tank units massed near the border with Saudi Arabia, L'Express said.

The goal of the third phase would be to cut off links between Kuwait and Iraq, L'Express said. It said U.S. green berets and navy

commandos would infiltrate behind Iraqi lines to disrupt communications.

Then, it said, the multinational force would launch an offensive along the Iraqi-Kuwait border involving tank-killer planes, combat helicopters and 200 U.S. M-1 tanks. This could be aimed at cutting off the Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait from supplies and reinforcements in Iraq.

The fourth and final phase, according to L'Express, would be an even larger offensive to reconquer Kuwait. It said 11,000 U.S. marines would land on Kuwait's north coast, while 45,000 French troops, 6,000 British troops, and 50,000 soldiers from the pan-Arab force would cross into Kuwait from the south to "liberate it metre by metre."

L'Express said U.S. planners estimated the offensive might cost 20,000 American lives. It gave no estimate for dead of other nations.

Thatcher: Military option open in Gulf

BOURNEMOUTH, England (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday she hoped economic sanctions against Baghdad would force Iraq out of Kuwait but the military option remained if they failed.

"Sanctions are being drawn tighter and tighter and we must earnestly hope they will work," Thatcher told the annual conference of her ruling Conservative Party.

"If not, the military option is there and the build-up of forces continues. We must be ready for any contingency," she said.

Thatcher said there was no room for negotiations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"You do not negotiate with someone who marches in to another country, devastates it, killing whoever stands in his way," she said. "You get him out, make him pay and see that he is never in a position to do these things again."

Thatcher, delivering the closing address to the conference at the southern resort of Bournemouth, said that every day Iraqi forces remained in Kuwait was a new act of war. She called Saddam a tyrant and said he must be made to pay.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Friday the Gulf and Arab-Israeli

issues must be kept separate but he hopes Israel will consider "fresh thinking" on the Middle East.

Hurd, who was to leave Friday evening on a week-long trip to Egypt and Israel, stressed in a radio interview that top priority must be given to getting the Israelis out of Kuwait.

Hurd's visit is expected to be dominated by the Gulf crisis and this week's killing of at least 30 Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem by Israeli soldiers.

"It is an opportunity for the Israelis to do fresh thinking. This is the point I shall put in Israel," he said.

"How do they now see it? Do they really believe that the security of Israel is best based on occupation and repression, or is there another way in which they could recognise the rights of Palestinians and in return get what they're entitled to — which is credible security within safe borders?" Hurd asked.

In talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Hurd is expected to stress that the presence of forces from Egypt and other Arab countries is still essential to the multinational response to the invasion.

After talks in Egypt over the weekend, Hurd flies to Israel on Monday.

No French strategy for war in Gulf — Mitterrand

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand said Friday that France was not moving to a war footing to force Iraq from Kuwait, and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arranged weekend talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The Socialist leader gave the assurance to an opposition leader. The government accelerated high-level contacts in the Gulf crisis by announcing Dumas would fly to Tunisia Sunday to see Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), before visiting Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Conservative former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac told reporters Mitterrand remained committed to a peaceful solution based on the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

"Mitterrand told me there was no change of strategy," Chirac said after private talks with the head of state at the Elysee Palace. He requested the meeting after questioning whether a "strategy of war" had evolved.

Mitterrand chaired an unannounced meeting of his inner cabinet Thursday night after it was announced that his foreign and defence ministers would visit the crisis zone.

The meeting coincided with warnings in Europe that the U.S. allies lined up against Iraq in the Saudi Arabian desert would have to consider going to war.

Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who is to inspect French forces in Saudi Arabia at the weekend, told waiting reporters Mitterrand had chaired "a mini defence council," but no details of the cabinet talks were released.

Chirac said Mitterrand had told him: "We remain in a strategy of blockade... our policy rests strictly in the framework of U.N. Security Council decisions."

Both the British and Italian foreign ministers have indicated in interviews in the past two days that military action in the coming weeks must be counted a possibility.

Chirac stressed that France should do its utmost for a peaceful settlement.

He said he told the president it would be difficult for France to stick to its policy "in the case of an outbreak of hostilities which we did not decide ourselves."

Chevènement warned Thursday that "France does not have unlimited military means" to devote to the Gulf crisis.

American build-up nears completion

DHAHRAN (Agencies) — The massive U.S. military build-up in Saudi Arabia is nearing completion, giving much of the country the appearance of a vast armed camp.

From roads passing near military installations, and aircraft missiles can be seen pointing north toward Iraq and Kuwait.

Near the Kuwaiti border, jets regularly scream overhead as pilots hone their skills over the featureless desert and, in the process, test Iraqi radar systems.

Highways that normally have little traffic in this sparsely populated country are full of vehicles carrying troops, weapons and supplies.

Row upon row of U.S. jets and helicopters line the runways of airports selected as military staging areas.

An estimated 300,000 troops from a dozen countries — including nearly 200,000 from the United States — are readying for war.

Military officials are deliberately vague about when the build-up will be completed. Some say U.S. forces will be near full strength by this weekend, others — including General Norman Schwarzkopf, head of the U.S. military here — say the end is still two to three weeks away.

But all the officers say the state of readiness of American troops is high, meaning they could fight now, if necessary.

The stark Saudi desert has become a vast training ground. In places of heavy troop concentrations, tracks of tanks and armoured vehicles stretch across the dunes.

The military, in a counter-measure against chemical and guerrilla attack, has dispersed its troops in small camps dug-in throughout the desert.

The military presence has led many Saudis to speculate not so much on if fighting will come, but when.

"I've heard that the war will start on Oct. 24," a Dhahran taxi driver said.

Others say war will not begin until November or perhaps even February for reasons ranging from domestic U.S. politics to the sandstorms kicked up by the winter winds in the Arabian desert.

U.S. military officials say there will be no American-led attack against

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Thousands attend a rally organised by the Muslim Brotherhood in an Amman suburb Friday to denounce Monday's massacre in occupied Jerusalem (see story below)

Israelis besiege Al Aqsa, kill two more in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel used curfews, roadblocks and water cannon Friday to block thousands of Palestinians from attending prayer services at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, where at least 30 Palestinians died in police gunfire earlier this week.

In the occupied territories, two Palestinians were shot to death and at least 10 others were wounded in clashes between troops and stone-throwing youths, Arab reports said.

Also Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would reject any effort by the U.N. Security

Council to send a team to investigate last Monday's deaths. Shamir said a U.N. investigation would be an infringement on Israel's "sovereignty over all of Jerusalem."

"We won't accept any involvement to any foreign element regarding Jerusalem," Shamir told Israel Radio. "Jerusalem is an inseparable part of Israel."

Short after Shamir spoke, the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq-Law in the Service of Man issued its preliminary report on the killings, calling it a massacre and urging international protection for Palestinians.

The group said massive stone-throwing which police say brought their gunfire did not begin until after teargas was fired onto the Haram Al Sharif complex. It also accused paramilitary border police units of opening fire without warning.

"After border guards started firing they did so without restraint and, at times, used automatic gunfire," Al Haq said. It added that Israel still had not learned to control protests without gunfire after three years of the Palestinian uprising.

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Thousands rally to demand end to Israeli violations of Palestinians' rights

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Widespread demonstrations, protests and strikes and other expressions of solidarity with the Palestinian people, including an "intifada concert" continued in the capital and throughout the Kingdom against Monday's massacre of 30 Palestinians and wounding of hundreds by Israeli soldiers at the Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

About 30,000 people attended a rally at Mahatta, thousands of women staged a sit-in at the Red Cross headquarters and an "intifada concert" drew 10,000 people to the Roman amphitheatre to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and to condemn the Israelis for Monday's massacre.

Demonstrations and protests lasted until late in the evening in refugee camps and cities across the Kingdom.

"Revolt, revolt, revolt with stones," sang the Balladna popular folklore group, as about 10,000 people stood up and cheered in their seats of the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman.

"Let us liberate Palestine from Haifa to Jenin," continued the song as the crowd roared in approval.

Enthusiasts waved Palestinian

flags and held up poster-size photographs of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and the assassinated PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir. Young men and women in black and white head-dresses turned the concert, organised by the Jordanian Popular Committee for Support of the Intifada, into a moving amphitheatre as they clapped and sang along with the folklore groups.

The concert, featuring four popular folklore groups, followed a two-hour sit-in by 2,000 women in front of the head office of the International Red Cross office in Shmeisani earlier in the day.

As women from many different

socio-economic groups and political persuasions sang and chanted popular protest tunes, Ihsan Abdul Hadi, the exiled president of the Palestinian Women's Federation, and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim read out a memorandum that the General Federation of Jordanian Women's Organisations had prepared to present to the Red Cross.

In a long list of demands, the groups reiterated that Palestinian human and national rights be respected and enforced when necessary.

"They have not been respected

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PLO seen moving closer to Gulf-Palestine linkage

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) appeared to be moving closer to a full linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem, according to the process voices which were pressing for distancing the Palestinian movement from Iraq.

A drafting committee formed by the Palestine Central Council (PCC) which concluded its meetings in Tunis Friday was expected to formulate a statement calling for a full linkage between a solution to the Gulf crisis and a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The linkage should not be vague or abstract... concrete steps and a schedule should be worked out to assert the linkage," a PLO official told the Jordan Times.

Although the final statement was not released by late Friday, PLO officials said that unless Chairman Yasser Arafat decided to intervene himself — as he has done in the past — to tone down the emphasis the linkage the organisation was to endorse a detailed and concrete mechanism to press for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions pertaining to all the problems of the Middle East.

The tone of the meeting was sharpened by the Israeli massacre of

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Baghdad warns Moscow against giving data to U.S.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Baghdad threatened Friday to prevent Soviet nationals leaving Iraq and Kuwait if Moscow gave the United States any information about Iraqi military capability.

An Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), warned the Soviet Union against passing on such information during a visit to Moscow next week by U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

INA said the Soviet Union, once Iraq's chief arms supplier, had had access to "serious secrets" on Iraq's military policy and industry due to its close relations with Baghdad.

"We warn them (Moscow) against such behaviour if it happens," the military spokesman said.

"If the Soviet Union gave the

United States the information it was seeking, we would be forced, unfortunately, to act in a way that protects our national security," he added.

"Among those measures could be ordering the responsible officials to halt the departure of Soviet nationals."

U.S. officials said Thursday Cheney will ask senior Soviet government officials for intelligence data on the Iraqi military during his four-day visit to Moscow next week.

Cheney plans to meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday, as well as with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov.

A senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Moscow had not met previous U.S. requests.

PLO assails Britain for 'conniving with U.S.'

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) accused Britain Friday of conniving in U.S. attempts to block a U.N. Security Council resolution favourable to the Palestinian cause.

A preliminary report on a two-day meeting of the PCC in Tunis said: "The British government bears full responsibility for this blatant connivance against the Palestinian people and shows scandalous bias towards Israel."

The report by PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said the United States had used Britain's position as Security Council chairman to block a resolution condemning Israel and calling for U.N. protection for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO wants the Security Council to send a mission of inquiry recommend measures to protect the Palestinians, as a first step towards Israeli withdrawal and a Palestinian state.

Abed Rabbo, who is responsible for the PLO's information department, said: "Washington is trying to

avoid using its veto so that its real position — supporting Israel and covering up its crimes — does not come to light."

"But, in connivance with Britain, it has used its veto in a double manner, through the tactic of procrastination and through obstructing security council actions."

Washington and London had turned the council into an instrument to serve their own purposes, he said.

On Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Washington obtained three resolutions in five days, but was now dragging out the Security Council debate into a sixth day, he added.

The preliminary report said a large share of the responsibility for U.S. policy rested with Arab states which "encouraged its invasion of the region."

The report said the correct solution was one which dealt with all Middle East issues and the PLO Executive Committee would follow this up with friendly powers such as France, China and the Soviet Union.

Arab League to meet in Tunisia on Oct. 17

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League will hold an urgent meeting Wednesday to discuss Monday's massacre of at least 30 Palestinians, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting was called for by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), will be attended by representatives of Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, Mauritania, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Palestine, Petra said. The meeting will discuss the "brutal Israeli aggression against unarmed Palestinian civilians and adopt a unified Arab stand to counter the Israeli aggression and provide special protection to the Palestinians from Israeli terror," Petra added.

It is not known yet whether the meeting would be held at foreign ministers level or at the level of permanent representatives.

Well-placed sources told Petra that the PLO insists that the meeting be held at the foreign ministers level because of the gravity of the situation in the occupied territories and Israel's

insistence on escalation its aggression of the Palestinian people and desecrating the holy places in Jerusalem and Palestine, it said. The PLO does not want at all a meeting at the permanent representatives level, Petra quoted its sources as saying.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urged Arab countries Wednesday to "make a common front against the butchery against Palestinians by the forces of Zionist occupation."

The organisation has also been successful in demanding a meeting Monday in Rabat, Morocco of the Al Quds Committee, which is charged with the preservation of Islamic holy places.

The Middle East Council of Churches Friday called for international protection for the people of Palestine.

Gabriel Habib, the general secretary of the Cyprus-based council, said he was "appalled by the news of the massacre of tens of unarmed Palestinians at prayer by the Israeli forces

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U.S. senators move to bar Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Four U.S. senators have moved to block the Bush administration's plan to sell advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia, saying they might one day be used against Israel.

The weapons include latest version of the M1 tank, Apache helicopters and multiple rocket launchers. They are part of a proposed \$7 billion weapons deal that the administration scaled down from \$21 billion following protests from Congress.

The resolution to disapprove part of the sale was introduced by California Democrat Alan Cranston, along with Democrat Paul Simon of Illinois and Republican Robert Packwood of Oregon and Arien Specter of Pennsylvania.

In a Senate speech Cranston said the United States should send Saudi Arabia the material it needed now to meet the "threat of Iraqi aggression."

But he asked why the administration was proposing to sell 150 M1A2 tanks, worth \$1.3 billion, that had not yet been built and would not be delivered until 1993.

"We may, as momentary brothers in arms, forget who the Saudis consider their real, long-time, irreplaceable enemies — who they and fellow Arab nations

are sworn to destroy," Cranston said, referring to Israel.

He said the United States should send to the Saudis only what was essential to meet the current "Iraqi threat."

In addition to the tanks, the resolution seeks to block the sale of 12 Apache anti-tank helicopters and hellfire missiles worth \$300 million, 1,750 Tom anti-tank guided missiles and launchers worth \$55 million, and more than 17,000 MLRS artillery rockets and launchers worth \$64 million.

Other weapons in the package, including Patriot anti-aircraft missiles and 10,000 trucks, trailers and other vehicles would not be affected.

Administration officials have said the arms package is the first of two-part arms deal. The second part is expected early next year.

The administration originally discussed a single \$21 billion sale that also include F-15 fighter planes.

Bonn rejects Saudi sale

One day after saying it was considering whether to approve a huge arms sale to Saudi Arabia, the German Defence Ministry Thursday ruled out any such de-

liveries.

The proposed sales, which reportedly were requested by the Saudis, had infuriated the opposition Social Democrats and were bound to raise Jewish anger as well.

Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg announced the decision at a news conference.

"The federal government does not have the intention of approving the delivery of such weapons to Saudi Arabia in connection with the current critical situation in the Gulf," Stoltenberg said.

But Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, later told reporters in Bonn he was confident that Germany and Saudi Arabia would eventually "cooperate in this important area."

He also stressed that any new weapons would only be intended for Saudi Arabia's defence.

"We don't want to attack anyone. That is the biggest guarantee for those who supply us with weapons," the prince said.

He added the aim of his visit was "not to buy weapons, but to congratulate Germany on its unity and discuss the crisis in the Gulf region."

Prince Saud met with Chancellor Helmut Kohl Thursday and with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher a day earlier.

Heath postpones visit to Baghdad

LONDON (AP) — Former Prime Minister Edward Heath Friday postponed a private humanitarian visit to Baghdad for one week at the request of Iraqi officials.

He had been scheduled to depart for Amman Friday morning and meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday to press for the release of sick and dying Britons caught in the Gulf crisis.

Heath, who was prime minister from 1970 to 1974, said he will now leave London next Friday and meet Saddam on Oct. 21.

"I had a call from the Iraqi embassy in the middle of the night. They said they wanted to be able to make more preparations before my arrival," Heath told Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

"They simply asked therefore that I should postpone the meeting and see Saddam Hussein on Sunday week," he said.

Britain has refused to negotiate about British citizens detained since Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Thursday acknowledged a "point of difference" between Heath and the government over talking to Iraq, but added: "It is his own plan."

"The purpose is clearly humanitarian and he will receive the help and facilities our embassies normally give to a former prime minister," Hurd said.

In a statement from his office, Heath expressed his continuing anxiety about those still detained in Iraq and Kuwait.

He told a news conference Thursday at Bournemouth, where he was attending the Conservative Party's annual conference, that he decided to go after relatives of the sick asked for his help.

"I have no political status and in no way do I represent the government in any political sense," Heath said.

He was reluctant to discuss the numbers involved in his mission, but the Foreign Office estimated that 42 Britons were judged "sufficiently sick to warrant special attention" on humanitarian grounds.

Three weeks ago, Heath angered some Conservatives when he urged world leaders to make a deal with Iraq to avoid war.

Rafsanjani's camp controls clerical body

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian moderates allied with the government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani have won almost all the seats on a key constitutional body in elections in which many of their radical opponents were excluded.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said only 1.8 million people voted in Tehran, the Iranian capital which has a population of more than 10 million.

This confirmed earlier reports from diplomatic sources in Tehran that Monday's poll was largely boycotted despite government exhortations urging all Iranians over 15 to vote.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, was among the key members elected to the 83-member Assembly of Experts, whose main task is to elect the nation's spiritual leader and interpret the constitution.

Other prominent personalities who won some of the 15 seats contested in Tehran included Ahmad Khomeini, son of the late revolutionary patriarch, Mohammad Reza Shah, the former prosecutor-general, and Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, who headed the last assembly.

The three are among only a handful of Rafsanjani's radical rivals whose names were allowed on the ballot as part of the president's campaign to squeeze the hardliners out of key power centres.

Most of the radicals were prevented from running after the government said they had to sit a test on their Islamic credentials, in an apparent effort by Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, the current spiritual leader, and Rafsanjani to cut the radicals down to size.

Most of the radicals who agreed to take the examination flunked.

Before the 12-member Council of Guardians, which screens all legislation to ensure it conforms with Islamic tenets, decreed the new rule, candidates for the assembly were approved by three senior clerics in the holy city of Qom.

The conflict over the balloting has heightened tension between the rival factions and brought the long-running power struggle in Tehran's hierarchy more prominently into the open.

Since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary patriarch, in June last year, the anti-Western radicals have feared a purge by Rafsanjani.

He is seeking to rebuild bridges

with the West and attract investment to revive the sluggish economy devastated by the 1980-88 war with Iraq. His opponents say close ties with the West are contrary to Khomeini's teachings.

The radicals, who constitute a majority in the 270-member parliament, have accused Khomeini, Rafsanjani's political ally, of colluding with him in rigging the elections.

In an apparent move to appease the radicals, Khomeini Thursday called on mosques throughout the nation to mourn the slaying of Palestinians by Israeli forces in Jerusalem Monday.

The killings have particularly enraged the radicals, who consider Israel and the United States the greatest enemies of Islam. They have repeatedly pledged to destroy Israel and "humiliate the great Satan," its closest ally.

The Majlis, or parliament, Wednesday called for holy war to liberate the Palestinian homeland.

A statement signed by 160 legislators declared that "jihad and martyrdom are the only ways for nations to attain their rights."

Khomeini Thursday ordered mosques throughout the nation to mourn the Palestinians before prayers Friday, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast said Rafsanjani declared Friday a national day of mourning.

The headline Friday prayer leaders nationwide issued a statement expressing surprise that the Israeli action was not universally condemned, while Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait prompted an immediate international outcry.

"It's surprising that in conditions where the various countries of the world have united against the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait... they have remained silent against this horrendous crime, or with an expression of regret have simply waved it aside."

But diplomats in Tehran, speaking by telephone on condition of anonymity, said the feuding between the government and its radical opponents had become "too intense" to be placated by such moves.

Sources in Tehran said the hardliners had wanted to win enough seats in Monday's election to depose Khomeini and replace him with a radical-controlled troika.

The voting conducted amid tight security after the radicals had threatened to stage protests, the diplomatic sources said. But no incidents were reported.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Portugal confirms uranium sales to Iraq

LISBON (AP) — The government has confirmed press reports that Portugal has sold hundreds of tonnes of uranium concentrate to Iraq. A report in the Spanish press said Portugal exported 1,070 tonnes of uranium from 1980 to 1988, much of which went to Iraq. The report, citing an official Portuguese document, suggested Iraq could have used material to produce nuclear weapons. Lisbon's Ministry for Industry and Energy confirmed Portugal sold 226 tonnes of uranium concentrate to the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission between 1980 and 1982 but said no sales were made after 1983. Under the sales contract, Iraq agreed to use the uranium for peaceful ends and abide by the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A ministry spokesman added the concentrate sold to Iraq was not the type of uranium that could directly be used in nuclear weapons.

4 held in Djibouti cafe blast

DJIBOUTI (AP) — Police have arrested four people believed responsible for a grenade attack at the cafe that killed a French boy and injured 17 people, authorities reported Thursday. Arrested Wednesday were Ibrahim Abdi Rabileh, Said Ismail Hassan, Ahmad Abdi Baqal and Idriss Abdi Wajirah, the government newspaper La Nation confirmed. They have been charged with launching the attack Sept. 27 against cafe-restaurant Cafe de Paris frequented almost exclusively by French soldiers and their families, authorities said. All the suspects are citizens of this tiny Horn of Africa country that hosts France's largest overseas military base and serves as the main staging area for French troops in the Gulf.

Turkish foreign minister resigns

ANKARA (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Bozer, who reportedly has taken a back seat in foreign policy matters to President Turgut Ozal, has resigned, it was announced Friday. Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut made the announcement and said a successor would be named shortly, but did not attend a meeting between Ozal and President George Bush at the White House last month although Secretary of State James Baker and Ozal's foreign policy adviser were present. Officially, it was said that the Ozal-Bush meeting had been scheduled to be a private one and that Baker had attended at the last moment without the knowledge of the Turkish delegation. But Turkish newspapers said Ozal did not want to work with Bozer. The Turkish press claimed that after the Gulf crisis, Ozal wanted to be the sole authority on Gulf issues and was seeking a foreign minister with whom he could work. There was no clear explanation why Ozal wanted to replace his foreign minister. Press reports said Bozer had no say on Turkish foreign policy any more.

Thousands march in support of Iraq in Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — Several thousand Algerians marched Thursday to the U.S. embassy, chanting in support of Iraq. Youths burned an American flag, and organisers demanded that U.S. troops leave the Middle East. Chanting "U.S. go home," marchers carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The march, over a three-kilometre route, was organised by the Committee of Support for the Iraqi People. Its president, Benmouh Zerdani, was allowed into the embassy and delivered a memorandum demanding "immediate and unconditional" withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf region. Zerdani said her committee was working with other Arab organisations to launch a "peace boat" that would embark from Algeria or Tunisia with food and medicine for Iraq.

Christians protest female troops in Mideast

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two dozen fundamentalist Christians marched to protest the dispatch of female troops — especially married women with children — to the Middle East. The protesters, in town for the American coalition of Unregistered Churches, carried signs outside the downtown armed forces recruiting centre. "It is against nature for women to be in combat uniforms," one sign read. Others said: "I would rather have men protecting me, not weaker women," and "Mama needs a mop and a broom, not an M-16." The protest leader was the Rev. W.N. Ottwell, an independent Baptist pastor from Fort Worth, Texas. He called women in the military "a perversion of Women's role." The Bible mandates that women submit to their husbands, not a military leader, Ottwell said. "How can a man be the head of his wife if Uncle Sam is telling her what to do?" Bill Sanders, a passer-by on his lunch hour, told Ottwell his stand was "bigotry and uncalled for."

Protest in London against Gulf policy

LONDON (R) — About 400 left-wing protesters staged a torch-lit march through central London late Wednesday to demand the withdrawal of U.S. and British forces from the Gulf. The march past the American embassy, organised by the Hands off the Middle East Committee, an ad hoc grouping of left-wing organisations, heard speakers denounce the "imperialist forces," in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. Organiser Keith Thompson said the demonstration was intended to provide a focus for people opposed to Western interference in the Gulf.

U.S. agencies want to ease limits on computers for Israel

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. officials want to relax restrictions on the sale of advanced computers to an Israeli military research laboratory that may be making nuclear weapons, the New York Times reported Friday.

The change, supported by State Department and Defence Department officials, will be considered next week at a meeting of a high-level government group called the Special Nuclear Export Committee, the newspaper said.

The committee has held preliminary discussions on the issue and an intelligence review will be held on Oct. 19, the Times said.

Opponents of high-technology exports and the spread of nuclear weapons say Israel will use advanced computers to develop lighter, more efficient nuclear weapons and long-range missiles and to conduct more accurate simulated tests in secret.

The opponents, quoted by the Times, said that because of the growing possibility of Middle East conflict, the United States would be sending the wrong signals by appearing to back advanced weapons development.

"This is not the time to be making exports that undermine U.S. credibility on non-proliferation in the Middle East," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project of Nuclear Arms Control, which opposes the spread of nuclear weapons to developing countries.

Those favouring easing restrictions say advanced weapons can be developed without supercomputers and control efforts are better applied to technology more directly related to weapons development.

The Israeli weapons centre, a quasi-government company known as the Rafael Armament Development Authority, conducts work on armaments ranging from advanced missiles to high-explosive weaponry.

Iran happy with results of Iraq talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, holding talks with an Iraqi envoy on normalisation of relations, called for faster repatriation of remaining Gulf war prisoners (PoWs).

Tehran Radio said Velayati told Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Wisam Al Zahawi Thursday he was satisfied with progress in the normalisation process between the two countries which fought a bloody eight-year war.

Velayati and Zahawi also agreed on the formation of a joint military committee with the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), which monitors the ceasefire in effect between the two countries since August 1988.

Zahawi and his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki on Wednesday agreed to set up committees to discuss the PoW issue, demarcation of the border and the reopening of the two countries' embassies in Tehran and Baghdad.

"Velayati stressed the need for speeding up the completion of PoW exchange in view of the fact that the relevant information is complete," said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Each of the two countries released about 37,000 PoWs in daily exchanges which began on Aug. 17, but the swap stopped a month later.

Iraq had about 50,000 PoWs in Iranian camps registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross before the exchange began. Tehran put the number of its captives as high as 55,000.

Mottaki said after a mission to Baghdad last month that Iraqi authorities had told him only two groups of Iranian PoWs remained in their country — those who did not wish to go back and those who were jailed or awaiting trial for breaking laws during their captivity.

Zahawi repeated Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz's invitation to Velayati to visit Baghdad, Tehran Radio said.

Americans 'profoundly uneasy' over Gulf deployment

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland (AP) — A U.S. senator may have spoken for more Americans than he thought when he said he was "profoundly uneasy" about the deployment of American troops in the Middle East.

"The uneasiness is quiet. People who are uneasy don't usually march in parades and carry banners about it. They're just uneasy."

Public opinion polls show broad support for President George Bush's actions so far in the Gulf crisis, but also show that a large majority of Americans oppose quick military actions against Iraq.

When a Hagerstown newspaper asked eight people if they thought the United States should invade Iraq and Kuwait to resolve the crisis, only two said yes. One woman said U.S. troops "should just get back over here."

When the organisation Americans Talk Security asked

how long U.S. forces should remain in Saudi Arabia if there was a stalemate, only 12 per cent said indefinitely. But 32 per cent predicted that was how long troops would be there.

It was the "ghost of Vietnam question," said Alan Kay, founder of the bipartisan group of pollsters.

In Philadelphia, Harold Jordan, coordinator of the National Youth and Military Service Programme of the American Friends Service Committee, receiving 550 to 600 calls and letters since early August from people who "never had any contact with organised peace of anti-war movements in the past."

Some, Jordan said, "say they would fight if they felt this country was truly threatened, but they don't see this as being a threat."

Senator Bob Kerrey, a Nebraska Democrat, said in a Sept. 19 speech on the Senate floor,

"I am profoundly uneasy about the instant deployment of over 100,000 American troops, sold to the American people on false assertions that Saddam Hussein is Adolf Hitler, that our way of life is at clear and present danger, that we have as much at stake as we did in World War II."

Kerrey also said that "many — probably a majority — of Nebraskans" had accepted Bush's rationale for the deployment.

More than two weeks later, Kerrey's press secretary, Steve Jarling, said "that hasn't changed. It's still pretty strong that he ought to be supporting the president."

Democratic Congressman Jim McDermott, on the other hand, said telephone calls and letters from his district have reflected "a lot of support for the position of getting out of the Arabian Desert."

McDermott voted against a resolution supporting the pres-

ident's actions in the crisis but emphasising the need for diplomacy to resolve it. The resolution passed the house 380-29 on Oct. 1 and the Senate passed a similar measure the following day.

McDermott said that when he was attending meetings in his home district during the August recess, "the question was raised, what are we doing in the Gulf? It was more a questioning than a statement of support or attack." More recently, he said, "People began to raise the question of: Why don't we get out of there?"

Some of the dissent, of course, comes from longtime critics of U.S. military involvement abroad. Demonstrators have begun to appear in Lafayette Square across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. On one recent afternoon, reprising a refrain from the Vietnam era, they shouted, "Hell no, we won't go."

And the president has his all-out backers as well. "I support his action and know he has far more advisers with a lot more knowledge of what's going on than I could ever imagine," said Darlene Brown, president of a young Republicans group in Maryland.

Yet Jordan of the Quaker-based Friends Service Committee said he was getting calls from people, hardly any of them Quakers, from a wide variety of fairly ordinary backgrounds.

"We see people from Hillbilly country in west Virginia, folks in Idaho, all kinds," he said. "We are getting calls from pay booths on military installations. Some people have made it clear that if they are ordered they are not going. These are people who have been pushed over the edge by the Gulf situation."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Local programme
18:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:50	Local programme
22:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
20:00	News in Arabic
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Classical music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Stranger on My Land"

PRAYER TIMES

04:16	Fajr
05:33	Sunrise (Dhuhr)
11:22	Dhuhr
14:38	Asr
17:11	Maghreb
18:28	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switish, Tel. 810740	Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	Assiout International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly moderate to fresh wind and wavy sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Abbedi	778959
Dr. Bekim Badr	849362
Dr. Issa Haddad	870707
Dr. Yousef Al Hourani	625478
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nasrallah pharmacy	626476
Al Salem pharmacy	630730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmouni pharmacy	637660

IBRD:

Dr. Nabil Abdul Ota (—)

Al Sharas' pharmacy

(985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Borini (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Fire Brigade	637777
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	896390
Police Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	691467
Complaints	871467
Amman Municipality	871111
Complaints	871111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111

Radio Jordan

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-33300

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642462
Jabal Amman Maternity	642462
Malaise, J. Amman	6

The Higher Committee on Jerusalem Affairs meets in Rabat to discuss situation in occupied territories

Jordan to attend Arab League emergency meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has announced its intention to attend an Arab League emergency meeting of the foreign ministers to discuss the Israeli massacre of Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem last Monday, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said Jordan's approval of the meeting raised to seven the total number of Arab states announcing their intention to take part in the emergency meeting called by the state of Palestine.

The agency said so far Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Sudan had announced their decision to participate in the coming meeting expected to be held in Tunis.

Jordan has also announced its decision to take part in the emergency meeting of the Higher Committee on Jerusalem Affairs, in Rabat, which will be organised at the request of King Hassan of Morocco.

The higher committee, which was formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), is chaired by the Moroccan monarch.

100,000 evacuees repatriated

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Filipina was the 100,000th evacuee to be assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to return from Jordan to Manila Thursday. Since the beginning of the international airlift on Sept. 3, more than 36,000 nationals of Bangladesh, 20,000 Indians, 3,000 Pakistanis, 11,000 Filipinos and 28,000 Sri Lankans and several hundred Egyptians have been repatriated from Jordan on IOM-organised flights.

The IOM international airlift, financed by contributions from governments, the European Community and private donors, has thus reached a new landmark. Evacuees have left on 347 specially chartered IOM flights, taking Queen Alia International Airport's capacity to its maximum. One ship with over 1,700 Sri Lankans had sailed from Aqaba on Sept. 15.

IOM Director of Operations Rolf Jenny, in a brief airport statement in the presence of the Philippine Ambassador Castro, EC Ambassador Falkowski and senior Royal Jordanian management, praised the help so generously extended to the evacuees by the Jordanian authorities. IOM's successful operation of this unique evacuation airlift, Jenny continued, has only been possible due to the excellent cooperation with the government and all organisations concerned.

Private donors in a number of countries, including foundations such as the "World in Harmony" organisation presided by H.R.H. Princess Irene of Greece, that sponsored one aircraft to Bangladesh, have added to the pledges made by governments to reach more than \$60 million in contributions IOM has been able to secure.

Jenny expressed, on behalf of the director general of IOM, particular gratitude to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the strong personal support His Highness had extended to IOM throughout the operation, and looked forward to close cooperation with Jordan in this most important humanitarian endeavour.

Jenny also handed over to Sala-

Royal Jordanian hit by Gulf crisis

AMMAN (R) — The head of Royal Jordanian (RJ) said Thursday the Gulf crisis had deprived the state-owned airline of badly-needed business and raised its costs.

"Royal Jordanian, like other airlines, has been heavily affected by the crisis," Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh told reporters. "We have lost many of our passengers, especially transit passengers."

Abu Ghazaleh said sharp rises in oil prices and insurance premiums had coincided with a drastic fall in passenger and cargo traffic in the region. He gave no figures.

An aviation source said transit

Following the massacre in the holy city, the Jordanian Committee on Jerusalem Affairs sent a memorandum to the government here urging it to seek a meeting by the higher committee in Rabat to discuss the situation in Jerusalem.

The Rabat meeting, Petra said, will discuss the role of the Islamic World can have to respond to the massacre of Palestinians at Al Haram Al Sharif and other dangers threatening Al Aqsa Mosque and other holy shrines.

The Higher Committee on Jerusalem Affairs, which was formed in 1981, groups Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Guinea, Niger, Senegal, Bangladesh, Iran, Indonesia, Pakistan and Lebanon.

Number of expatriates dwindles, but the crisis is not over yet

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although the number of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait now in Jordan awaiting flights home has fallen to less than 900, the United Nations agencies and the Jordanian government remain very much alert to the possibility of a new wave of people across the border, senior officials said.

According to figures released by relief officials and Asian diplomats, a total of 856 Asians were on Jordanian territory on Friday, and all of them would have flown out by Saturday. This figure compares with 43,000 on Sept. 29, officials noted.

"Everything is streamlined, and there is little chance of a repetition of what happened in early September," said a senior official referring to over 55,000 people stuck in windswept, scorpion-plagued desert camps in the no-man's-land between the Iraqi border post at Trebeel and the Jordanian frontier at Al Ruweisah.

The government has announced plans to set up transit camp facilities which could house up to 150,000 people. "Although the present problem is over, there is no guarantee that another massive wave could not come if hostilities break out in the Gulf," said the senior official. "We are talking about the two million plus remaining in Iraq and Kuwait."

A visit to the two transit camps at Azraq proved that the facilities were very much in place for new arrivals although only a skeleton staff of international and Jordanian officials remained.

"We will not have any problems now," said a senior police official at Azraq I. "The only problem, as far I can see, is how

Bouchard reaffirms Paris approach to Middle East

AMMAN (Petra) — France believes that international legitimacy should be applied in all cases, and no one can protect human rights in one place and ignore them in another, according to French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard.

"The international community can not be made to condone Israel's acts of violence in the occupied Arab territories not only on humanitarian grounds but also because violence is part of continued acts of injustice in the Israeli-held Arab lands," the ambassador said in a statement Thursday.

"The recent events in Jerusalem can be described as tragic violence; therefore France supports the convening of an international peace conference to deal with the Palestine problem," said Bouchard.

He said that the convening of such a conference is more important now than at any time in the past but, he said, ample preparations for such conference should

first be made on the part of the five member nations of the U.N. Security Council.

Bouchard said that the Security Council should take proper measures to ensure protection for the Palestinian people and the holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

"France supports a U.N. Security Council resolution that would condemn the use of violence and force in Jerusalem and backs the idea of dispatching a U.N. mission to the occupied Arab lands," said Bouchard.

According to the ambassador, France will not take part in any military action against Iraq because U.N. resolutions on the Gulf do not provide for military action.

French forces' presence in Saudi Arabia, he added, came in implementation of Security Council resolutions, but France will pursue all efforts to find a peaceful solution because military solution means a real catastrophe for all nations.

Arar welcomes French stand on Middle East

AMMAN (J.T.) — France's stand with regard to the Gulf Crisis and the situation in the occupied Arab territories as expressed by French government leaders was warmly welcomed by the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar.

"France's stand which first emerged through President Francois Mitterrand's address to the U.N. General Assembly is met with satisfaction and relief by the Arab masses," said Arar in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

"Statements by French leaders about the right of the Palestinian

people, the need to convene an international peace conference and France's determination not to take part in any aggression against Iraq can only be described as positive developments," said Arar in his statement.

"I believe that the French president's initiative can form the basis for a balanced and comprehensive solution that would ensure the rights of all parties to the Gulf conflict," said Arar.

He said that the French prime minister's statement on Middle East, the Gulf and the need for providing protection to the Palestinian people made the pres-

ident's statements, even more positive.

"We in Jordan believe that such French statements are steps in the right direction, and we believe that countries interested in peace should seek a peaceful solution for all problems in a manner that would guarantee the rights of all parties," Arar said.

Arar expressed hope that the world would witness an imminent French move within the European Community (EC) to win support for Mitterrand's initiative and end the American-led invasion of the Gulf region so as to pave the way for a peaceful and just solution for the problem.

Rally held in memory of slain Jordanian journalist

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A big rally was held Wednesday night in memory of the Jordanian journalist Michel Nimri who was gunned down in Athens on September 18, 1985.

The assailant, who used a gunsilencer, was then described as dark skinned with black curly hair, but he was never identified or captured.

Nimri was viewed as a victim of the suppression of freedom of expression in the Arab World. Nimri's assassination was linked to his outspoken criticism of repression by Arab governments and his resilient defence of the freedom of expression.

Many writers believe that whoever killed Nimri was aiming at silencing his voice after publishing a periodical — called Al Nashra — which provided a free forum for all the opposition movements in the Arab World.

Wednesday rally, which was held at the Professional Association Complex, turned into a popular protest against Israeli occupation, foreign intervention in the Gulf, and a tribute to the democratisation process in Jordan.

In a moving speech Michel's brother, Fakhri, who is also a journalist, said that the rally was a tribute to the Palestinians killed last week by Israeli settlers and "to all the martyrs of the infidels."

"For us my brother was one of them. He was killed for the same cause," Nimri said amid applause from hundreds who packed Al Rashid hall at the complex and spilled over to the terrace.

Nimri's mother and father then accepted condolences from the audience as they suppressed tears of sorrow



Michel Nimri

brought about by memory amid the echo of recorded songs for the Palestinian uprising.

Speaker after speaker invoked the memory of many Arab writers and intellectuals who were eliminated either by Israel or by Arab regimes.

Among those remembered were Ali Foudeh, a Palestinian journalist and poet who was killed in action when the Israelis invaded Lebanon in 1982 and the Palestinian cartoonist Najj Ali Ali, who was killed in London in 1987.

When Nimri was killed Ali drew a cartoon depicting the Jordanian journalist struggle for democracy through his writings. Ali's cartoon also portrayed the power of the word against repression.

Nimri was born in Samad, north of Jordan, and went to school in Mafraq. He later joined the students' movement and fought along the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon in the mid seventies.

He engaged in early journalistic career by writing for Arab Jordanian and Palestinian

newspapers and publications, without abandoning his political activities.

In 1982, during the Israeli siege of Beirut, Nimri volunteered to work for the Palestinian broadcasting service which was instrumental in raising the morale of the Palestinians and the Lebanese as Beirut was almost completely blockaded.

Nimri was 37 years old when he was shot near his residence in Athens. He is most remembered for his defence of freedoms in the Arab World; he headed the Jordanian Democratic Freedoms Committee until his death.

In the Israeli occupied territories Nimri was hailed as the "martyr of the Arab opposition" by the Arabic press in Jerusalem, while fingers of accusation were pointed immediately to Damascus. Although the alleged Syrian role was never really established, Nimri was killed immediately after his periodical Al Nashra wrote a detailed report about the Syrian opposition.

In the August 5th issue of Al Nashra Nimri wrote an article urging all Arab writers, intellectuals and citizens to join the struggle for democracy in the Arab World.

"The cause of human rights is the cause of all people regardless of their political and ideological commitments or affiliations. It is the cause of the ordinary citizen as much as it is the cause of the committed political activities," he wrote warning that Arab citizens were fed up with repression in any of its forms.

His family announced Wednesday that an annual award would be dedicated to the best journalistic achievement in Jordan in memory of Michel Nimri.

Iceland sends aid to evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has taken delivery of a plane load of relief supplies that arrived from Iceland as a gift from its Red Cross Society.

The director of Iceland's Red Cross Society, who arrived on board the plane, said that the shipment was a contribution to the efforts shouldered by the

JNRCS to care for the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

The shipment was made up of 40 tonnes of supplies, including 7,600 blankets, 18 tonnes of smoked fish, five tonnes of biscuit and four tonnes of canned goat meat.

According to the official, Iceland's Red Cross Society will dispatch another shipment of 40

tonnes of relief supplies Wednesday for the benefit of the evacuees arriving in Jordan.

He expressed hope that the supplies would contribute towards alleviating the sufferings of the evacuees stranded in Jordan.

JNRCS Vice President Dr. Mohammad Hadid voiced the society's appreciation for the gift.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajm — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities Registration and Research Centre, Jabel Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by four Palestinian artists depicting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian, Iraqi and other Arab artists at Alfa Art Gallery, 1st Circle.
- ★ The Bani Hamida exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings and quilts at the Abu Jaber Estate, Yacoubeh.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Al Shayeb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of photos from the Goethe-Forest (between Teflikh and Stobak) by Sigrid Nember at the Goethe Institute — 5:00 p.m.

Businesses complain of high prices of sugar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian businesses which use sugar in their products have sent a memorandum to the Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub outlining their grievances and complaining from severe losses.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the memorandum requested that the Ministry of Supply take a number of steps to reduce the losses and "avert a major blow to the local industries under the present difficult economic circumstances."

The memorandum proposed that the Ministry of Supply allow local businesses to import special types of sugar like powder sugar and sugar extracted from beet and sugar cane which can be

purchased at lower rates and proposed that bakeries and confectioneries be exempted from paying the difference in the price of sugar as these businesses had concluded deals and committed themselves to contracts at the previous rates.

According to Petra, the memorandum suggested that the local businesses should be allowed to buy sugar at subsidised price until the present deals expire so that the exporters could be in a strong position to compete on the markets and it proposed that the Ministry of Supply should make available sufficient amounts of sugar for all businesses and bakeries without any restrictions.

ANNOUNCING
AN
EXHIBITION
of fine handicrafts

Bani Hamida
RUGS - QUILTS

As a courtesy of the Sons of Sa'ad Abu Jaber
AT THE ABU JABER ESTATE
(adjacent to KAN ZAMAN)
12-19 October 1990
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Save the Children Project
Funded by USAID
In cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation

CANADA

MR. JOHN GARUFI, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS I.E.C LTD,
MONTREAL CANADA, WILL BE STAYING AT
THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, AMMAN
13 SATURDAY - 16 TUESDAY OCTOBER
INTERESTED PARTIES ARE KINDLY INVITED
TO CONTACT HIM.

السيد جون جاروفي
سيكون باستقبالكم بقتنك ما سوفت - عمان
١٣ - ١٦ تشرين الاول سنة ١٩٩٠
المرادسة المصنعة الانشغال معه على تلفون ٦٦٠١٠٠

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية
تأسست 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Trial and error

THE TWO-DAY weekend and the revised working hours and other measures that will take effect today are sensible on more than the energy conservation count. The developed countries of the world adopted the two-day weekend several decades ago as an economic and social measure that all advanced societies need. The economic benefits of such a reasonably prolonged weekend were demonstrated time and again as improving productivity as well as conserving energy. The social benefits were also demonstrated to be profound in a view of the high tension involved in modern way of living, thus necessitating longer rest periods. Yet the adoption of Thursdays and Fridays as a Jordanian weekend is not without its pitfalls.

For one thing, private firms and establishments have been excluded from the new guidelines, rendering the total impact of the new measures less effective. Considering that the Kingdom's private sector occupies an important part of the Jordanian economy and represents a major employer, it would seem that their inclusion rather than their exclusion should have been much more seriously considered.

It is one thing to exclude Jordanian banks and financial institutions that have an international profile from the application of the new measures and quite another to exclude local private enterprises and businesses without an international profile. The internationally connected institutions would have effectively lost one more working day had the new Thursday-Friday weekend been made part of their working system. This, however, does not appear to be true as far as the domestic oriented Jordanian firms and establishments.

The problem also lies in the impracticability of having two sets of weekends in Jordan: One applicable to public enterprises and institutions, including governmental agencies, and another for private and internationally oriented establishments. But as the prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, has repeatedly emphasised, the new measures are experimental in nature and that the government is open-minded about introducing further changes that commensurate with the needs of the country.

As for the new working hours prescribed by the government, they strike us as rather arbitrary. Whoever thought of starting working hours at 7:45 and ending them at 3:15 must be so Swiss minded and unduly impressed with a precision that may never be maintained in a Middle Eastern culture. Would it not have been much more sensible and practical to start and end work on the hour? On the other hand, would it not have been wise to allow for a short lunch break for the civil servants, by starting work a little bit later and ending it in time for a convenient family dinner, say at 5 or 6 p.m., as the case indeed was in Jordan a couple of generations ago.

At any rate, the government has introduced new and bold measures that are terribly needed at this point in time. Since they are subject to change, after a trial and error period, it is all the more important to keep an eye on how they are working so that the best formula for their success can be devised.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE Jordanian people realise the grave situation in their region and the looming dangers represented in the presence of foreign forces in Arab lands and Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinian people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. It noted that the representatives of the Jordanian people who sit in Parliament have expressed the people's full realisation of the grave situation and demanded from the government that the people be armed to exercise self-defence and help the armed forces fend off an aggression. Indeed, close cohesion between the leadership and people of Jordan constitutes the most significant aspect of Jordan's steadfastness, and forms the basis on which the democratic rule is founded, the paper said. Internal unity is the guarantee for continued steadfastness and the sense of national belonging and sacrifice marks the mutual relationship and close cooperation between the two sides, the paper added. The paper said that the responsibility of defending the nation lies with the people of Jordan as it does with the leadership of this country, and therefore, it is imperative for all citizens to remain committed in word and deed to the various responsibilities and the joint struggle to attain the common goal.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily describes France's recent reaction to developments in the Middle East region as assuming great significance. President Mitterrand's demand that an international peace conference to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict be convened without waiting for a settlement to the Gulf crisis is a clear indication on the part of Paris that the international community attention should not be fully exploited by the United States in the Gulf question, Mahmoud Rissawi wrote. Furthermore, France has displayed its dissatisfaction with the Americans way of handling the Gulf issue by announcing its opposition of Washington's plan as presented to the U.N. Security Council, demanding authority to launch an aggression on Iraq, the writer adds. It is clear that France is keen on giving full world community attention to the situation in the Middle East on equal footing with that given to the Gulf crisis as it believes international legitimacy can not be selective, the writer points out. France's announcement that it will not take part in any joint military action against Iraq in the Gulf gives further credibility to the French stand with regard to all problems in our region, Rissawi notes. He says that the majority of the Arab people would support the idea of sending French troops to be stationed in the occupied Arab territories as way of translating French policy into practice and helping to provide protection and security to the Palestinian people. Such a move, he adds, could be taken under U.N. auspices not for the sake of launching aggression on Israel but rather for defensive purposes, exactly as the western alliance had done in the Gulf region.

Massacre turns spotlight back to Palestinian plight

By Mona Ziade
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The killing of 19 Palestinian protesters by Israeli gunfire in occupied Jerusalem has given Iraq an opportunity to drive a wedge between the United States and its allies in the Gulf crisis and turn Arab anger against the United States.

By shooting unarmed Palestinian protesters, Israel played into Iraq's hands, diplomats and analysts say.

"It's a victory for Saddam, one which has cornered the United States," a senior Jordanian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"His only hope was to drive a wedge into the western alliance against him. I think Israel has given it to him," the seasoned diplomat commented.

Monday's slayings dramatically shifted the spotlight away from the Gulf and strengthened Saddam's argument that the dispute over Kuwait and the Arab-Israeli conflict are intertwined, and that one cannot be resolved without the other.

With Israel abruptly and violently pitched into the political cauldron stirred by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, there are some fears that Saddam may now feel tempted to carry out his threats to strike at the Jewish state.

That would leave Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia — the main components of the Arab alliance ranged against him — in an extremely awkward position, as they could hardly be seen to condemn retaliation against the Arab enemy.

Diplomats and analysts believe that even if Saddam does nothing but sit tight, Monday's killings will put pressure on the

U.S.-Arab coalition to take action to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The United States has firmly resisted any linkage between Kuwait and Palestine. America's European allies initially backed the stance, but have since shown signs of a willingness to tie the two issues.

In condemning the Jerusalem bloodbath this week, U.S. President George Bush stressed that the priority remained for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

He also warned Saddam against tying Monday's tragedy, the bloodiest day in the Palestinians 34-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, to the invasion of Kuwait.

The European stand indicated a clearly differing assessment from Washington's, with the 12 European Community partners urging "the start of a peace process which is long overdue."

France openly said a move to resolve the 42-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict need not wait for Kuwaiti sovereignty to be restored.

If Bush "tries to protect Israel again, that will only prove Saddam right in his accusation that the United States is an enemy of the Arabs. If Bush shows flexibility, Saddam will say his policy has forced the Americans to back down," the Jordanian official said.

"Either way, this development will make him more stubborn in sticking his feet deeper into the Kuwaiti sand," he said. "If the Americans want a new order in the world, they should apply to all conflicts equally. There's no room for double standards anymore."

He said it would be foolish for Saddam to insist on a

"mechanical linkage" between the Palestinian and Kuwaiti issues.

Kuwait and the Palestinians "belong to the same region, and the other linkage is that the main outside actor in both crises is the United States," another Jordanian official said.

"How this big power reacts now will definitely affect the course of war or peace," he said.

France's ambassador to Jordan, Denis Bauchard, underscored in an interview how the Jerusalem slayings have overshadowed the Gulf crisis.

"Right now, there's a need for an emergency meeting on

the Palestine issue, even if the Kuwait crisis is still unresolved," Bauchard said.

"There are clear resolutions demanding an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Iraq must implement these resolutions," he said.

"There are resolutions pertaining to Palestine, too, and since Israel for so long now has refused to implement these resolutions ... we propose convening quickly an international conference on the Palestine issue to avoid more violence."

The international conference is a proposal Israel and the United States have long rejected because it involved

the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Soviet Union no longer poses a challenge to U.S. influence because of detente and both powers laying to rest the cold war, typified by Moscow and Washington jointly condemning Saddam.

But publicly, the United States remains unwilling to accept a role for the PLO in a Middle East peace process.

Israel also has categorically rejected the idea of an international conference at which it would be forced to offer concessions to the Palestinians.

Europe insists on the parti-

cipation of the PLO on an equal footing as the representative of the world's 5 million Palestinians.

"The situation in the occupied territories has become unacceptable, and any delay with result in convening a conference will lead to more tragedies," a western diplomat said.

The diplomat, asked whether the United States would soften its stand on the international conference, said: "There's an evolution ... among U.S. leaders on this issue and I think before too long, they'll realise it's the best mechanism."

Is the U.S. losing in the Gulf?

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Has the United States lost the initiative in the Gulf crisis?

Some analysts believe President George Bush has let the psychological pressure on Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein slacken and say his policy is now drifting.

"I'm beginning to get a little nervous. I wonder if the United States is losing control, drifting, uncertain of what it is going to do next," said Barry Rubin, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Bush succeeded in keeping an extraordinary focus on the Gulf crisis for the first two months after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

But in the past 10 days, the focus has shifted, both in Washington and in the region. At home, Bush has stumbled badly in attempts to cobble together a new budget that would cut the huge government deficit and his popularity ratings have plummeted.

Abroad, the killing of 21 Palestinians by Israeli police gave Iraq the opportunity to link a solution to the Gulf crisis with an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It placed the United States on the defensive in the United Nations, trying to keep its alliance with moderate Arab states together by condemning Israel for excessive use of force while warding off pressure for an even tougher Security Council resolution.

But in a deeper sense, there is a feeling among some in Washington that the United States no longer knows what it wants to achieve in the Gulf and is unsure how far it is prepared to go to achieve it.

Officially, Bush has not wavered from the goals he set forth immediately after the invasion — an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, restoring of the Kuwaiti ruling family and freedom for U.S. hostages.

One problem is that Kuwait is being so quickly dismembered by

Iraq that it may not be possible to put it together again if the occupation continues much longer.

"Saddam is coming to the conclusion that the United States is bluffing. If this continues for six months, Saddam will look like a winner, Kuwait won't exist any more and U.S. troops will still be sitting in the desert," Rubin said.

Kuwait's ambassador to Washington, Sheikh Saud Nasir Al Sabah, made the same point on Wednesday in a hearing before the House of Representatives' Human Rights caucus.

"I don't believe that Iraq, in the short run or the long run, will be adversely affected by sanctions," he said.

"Time is running out. I hope we can find a quick and prompt solution to rescue my people."

Seth Carus of the Naval War College Foundation noted that some advocates of sanctions had predicted that Iraq would be on its knees by now.

"That clearly has not happened and will not happen for a long

time if at all. And the longer the crisis goes on, the greater will be the temptation for the West to focus on other things," he said.

By defying the world, Saddam was beginning to look like a winner in the Arab World while the appetite of Washington's allies for military action appeared to be diminishing, Carus added.

"The longer the world delays in this matter, the harder it will be to act decisively," Joseph Goldberg of the National Defence University.

Bush administration pronouncements have wavered recently, seessawing between conciliatory-sounding statements one day and more aggressive words the next.

This kept Saddam psychologically on edge for a time, Carus said, but was now costing Bush some credibility among his allies.

"The bottom line is there are no easy options. People who focus on sanctions as an easy way out are just as wrong as those who think there can be a quick, clean war," he said.

Who controls the troops in Gulf?

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON — Recent statements by two senior Arab officers in the Gulf that their forces would not join any offensive against Iraq have highlighted uncertainties about the mission of more than 300,000 Western and Arab troops massed against Iraq.

What happens if shooting starts in the region between Iraqi troops on one side and a collection of ground, air and naval forces from the United States and more than a dozen of other Western and Arab nations on the other?

Who will command forces arrayed against Iraq? Will the orders be to protect Saudi Arabia or will they send Western and Arab troops into Iraq or neighbouring Kuwait to drive out several hundred thousand Iraqi troops dug in there?

Private U.S. defence analysts agree that prospects for any quick offensive thrust into Kuwait or Iraq soon are very dim.

But they question how anti-Iraq forces would be integrated in any fighting situation despite assurances from Pentagon offi-

cials that the now-separate U.S., Western and Saudi-led Arab command structures would mesh well.

"I don't see any offensive in the next couple of months, certainly not before the economic sanctions against Iraq are given very ample time — and not before further agreements on the goals of any operation," said Jim Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"But even if you're not talking ground attack, just coordinating U.S., British, French, Dutch and other aircraft would be a major undertaking," he said.

Other experts pointed to statements in recent days by the commanders of 14,000 Egyptian troops and 4,000 Syrian troops in or near Saudi Arabia that their forces were there to protect Saudi Arabia, not to take part in any offensive against Iraq.

"Our main task is to reinforce Saudi defence capabilities and protect its borders against any aggression," Egyptian Major General Mohammed Ali Bilal told the Sharjah-based Al Khaleej newspaper at Hafr Al Batin in Saudi Arabia.

"The Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia will not participate in any offensive," he said in the remarks published on Monday.

On Sunday, the paper carried similar remarks by the Syrian commander in Saudi Arabia, who said his forces would not join any offensive in the region.

The United States has more than 175,000 marines, soldiers, airmen and sailors in the region, by far the largest of the forces ordered there after Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Forces arrayed against Iraq in the region also include, or will soon include, more than 100,000 Saudi troops and reserves, nearly 16,000 from Britain, 4,500 from France, 6,000 from Morocco, 5,000 each from Pakistan and Bangladesh and dozens of ships and aircraft from a dozen countries.

U.S. forces are under the command of the army General Norman Schwarzkopf, who has been holding talks with Saudi military officials since the buildup began on a command structure.

British Defence Minister Tom King said following a recent Washington meeting with U.S.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney that British forces would be put under U.S. "tactical command" in the region, but their British commanders would be responsible to London.

Don Kerr of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies said he did not foresee problems in contingents carrying out their respective tasks despite the apparent complexity of command and control.

But Larry Kord, a former Pentagon official now with the Brookings Institution, warned that great political pressure will mount on different countries to do different things if shooting starts.

"It's one thing for Egypt to say it will protect Saudi Arabia from Saddam and quite another to ask Egyptian troops or planes to attack Kuwait or Iraq," he said.

Analysts and diplomats in the region say the issue of whether Arab troops would be led by the U.S. command if shooting starts is an extremely sensitive one because Muslim states with troops in the Gulf are anxious not to be seen as promoting a Western presence there.

Reuters

Romania: Communism or capitalism?

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

BUCHAREST — Nine months since emerging from one of modern Europe's darkest ages, Romania is stranded in an uneasy middle ground between communism and capitalism, its economy shattered, its dreams distant and confused.

The National Salvation Front (NSF) government has yet to fashion an economic system to begin to treat the profound ills afflicting industry and millions of ordinary people.

"Nobody seems to want to work. Nobody feels it's worth it. Not until they see the government's promises of a market economy enshrined in law," said the frustrated manager of an idle furniture factory near Bucharest.

The country is in deep crisis as it approaches the first anniversary of the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, at whose hands it slid backward for almost 40 years.

Inflation is rampant. Shortages abound. Energy prices have shot up. Strikes, absenteeism and industrial paralysis are the norm. The trade balance deteriorates all the time.

But the cure for these ills appears remote in the absence of a functioning economic system. Communism is dead but a new economy has yet to be born.

New laws on enterprises and banking are held up by parliamentary wrangling.

The new laws are being de-

bated and voted on clause-by-clause, with arguments centring on how much influence the state should have on such matters as the retention of hard currency profits by firms.

The reluctance of foreigners to invest and creditors to lend because of political instability and publicly acknowledged attempts by Romanian bureaucrats to slow down or sabotage free-market reforms, have worsened the descent into darkness.

Belt-tightening and self-sufficiency are watchwords for the coming winter. Already long queues form outside shops for essential goods which Romanians realise will remain in short supply this winter, despite the demise of communism.

Minister of Economic Guidance Eugen Dijmarescu has drawn a bleak picture of recent results and near-term prospects in local media interviews.

"Romania will be forced to restrict itself for this period of the reform to its own resources and, at best, to potential foreign investors acting on their own account... participation of foreign capital has so far been insignificant," he said.

Investors have held back especially since pro-government violence in June, when thousands of miners poured into Bucharest to beat up anti-government demonstrators.

"There is apparent price stability because prices have not yet been liberalised," Dijmarescu

said. But he added: "There is a strong inflationary pressure as a result of an increase in cash available to the population."

He said prices jumped 18 per cent in the first six months of this year and salaries by 10.9 per cent.

He estimated unemployment, officially non-existent in Ceausescu's years and still not formally recorded, at around 10 per cent.

Industrial output had fallen by 19.9 per cent in the first eight months and labour productivity was down by 22.4 per cent because of a reduced working week and a rash of strikes and absenteeism which had caused a 10 per cent loss of working time.

Eight hundred enterprises have ground to a halt in the past three months because of raw material and component shortages or the reluctance of workers to work. Investment in new plants is lagging well behind schedule.

Romania began the year in the black having cleared its external debts under Ceausescu. But, with falling exports and rising imports, it is plunging into financial crisis.

Prime Minister Petre Roman said Romania had a small surplus in September but that in the last three months of the year the deficit would swell by \$1 billion because of higher oil imports caused by the Gulf crisis.

Romania's deepening economic crisis has led to intensified calls by economists for radical remedies, such as monetary reform to revalue the worthless lei. "The country is faced with

tremendous inflation all over. This prevents any reform from attaining its purpose," said Anghel Rugina, a Boston University professor of Romanian origin, who recently submitted a radical plan to President Ion Iliescu.

"Monetary reform should therefore take pride of place," Rugina said. The lei needed to be revalued by 10 or 20 times. "An economic crisis like the crisis in Romania means economic cancer and can be cured only by fast action."

On the black market the Romanian currency is worth only one fifth of its artificially-high official value.

Signs are emerging that Roman will indeed go for shock therapy to turn the economy round — through radical pricing and monetary policies.

Roman, who has already called for quicker reform has said changes are being blocked at various levels of government.

In the first tough move of its kind, Roman scrapped energy price subsidies for industry last month and then said factories registering losses would be given no energy this winter and would have to be shut down.

Dijmarescu's attitude is also growing radical. "There is no reason why we should repeat Hungary's, Poland's or Yugoslavia's experiments of the past few decades. We must uproot the evil and set realistic prices," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Algeria speeds up transition to market economy

By Philip Shehadi

ALGIERS — Socialist Algeria, casting off the remnants of two decades of central planning, is seizing on an oil price windfall from the Gulf crisis to speed up moves towards a market economy.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, defying political logic, his critics say, is racing ahead with liberal economic reforms just months before the first multi-party general elections since independence from France in 1962.

In doing so he has triggered a crisis in his ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and stirred the anger of trade unions and state employees who say their jobs and incomes are at risk.

"With this burst of oxygen, oil prices at 40 dollars a barrel, Algeria has an historic chance it must not miss to emerge from a planned economy and under-development," Hamrouche told Reuters this week.

"There is no choice but economic reform," President Chadli Benjedid told the nation on Monday night.

The doubling of world oil prices sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait will net Algeria more than \$1.4 billion in extra revenue this year.

Although most of the money has been earmarked to pay off commercial debt arrears and shore up reserves depleted by five years of economic crisis, some should be left to help revive growth and cushion the social impact of reform.

The government is also counting on an influx of foreign investment and fresh credits to refinance up to \$2 billion of the \$24 billion foreign debt.

Hamrouche has set a year-end deadline for all state firms to become autonomous profit centres setting their own prices.

The most recent measures have abolished state trading monopolies and allowed foreign firms for the first time since the 1970s to sell scarce goods on the local market for dinars or hard currency through Algerian concessionaires.

But the obstacles are formidable and many public and private sector managers are convinced the situation will worsen before it improves.

Much of Algeria's industrial base, one of the biggest in Africa, is at a standstill and unemployment exceeds 25 per cent. Only one in four public and private sector firms made profits in 1988.

The reforms are coming under renewed fire as opposition groups and FLN hardliners play on public fears that a free market economy would punish the poor seed inflation even higher than its current 30 per cent annual rate.

An association of public sector employees urged its members last month to obstruct the reforms, which they said jeopardised the social gains secured under socialism.

Managers at a conference on the crisis this week bitterly complained they were being asked to restructure and meet the challenge of competition without the means to do so.

"We are for the reforms and for a market economy, but will be able to defend ourselves against what will certainly be unfair competition by foreign firms?" asked Mohammed Arezki Louis Khodja, a leading industrialist.

"For us, democracy means that pent-up demands from everyone in the firm are falling on our heads without having the means to meet them," said the manager of a state firm.

The managers complained they had not been adequately consulted on the reforms and could not be expected to turn around loss-making firms, often halted for lack of raw materials and spare parts, without new state funds.

They also say they are running up against entrenched bureaucratic attitudes that — despite new laws — maintain in practice the old system of monopolies.

"How can you get rid of administrative practices of 30 years in the space of two or three months?" said another manager.

Hamrouche sought to reassure both managers and workers that the government would help execute any serious restructuring plan by making more credit available at state banks.

But local interest rates are as high as 18 per cent, hard currency is in short supply and banks have yet to mobilise the 40 billion to 50 billion dinars (\$4.2 billion to 5.3 billion) circulating on the black market.

Reuters

Egyptian parliament speaker assassinated

(Continued from page 1)

journey to meet a Syrian delegation in Cairo at the (nearby) Meidia Hotel," Musa said.

Egypt has imposed stringent security checks at ports of entry to head off the threat of guerrilla attacks during the Gulf crisis. Cairo and Syria have sent thousands of troops to join U.S.-led forces opposing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The killing took place one day after Egyptians voted in a referendum to dissolve parliament. President Hosni Mubarak, responding to the poll result, ordered the dissolution Friday and called mid-term general elections for Nov. 29.

Mubarak, whose policies were strongly supported by Mahjoub, issued a decree, carried by the national Middle East News Agency (MENA), to dissolve the People's Assembly.

The decree ended months of political wrangling after a sup-

reme court ruled in May that parliamentary elections held in 1987 were based on an unfair law favouring party candidates against independents.

Egypt announced earlier that the country's voters had approved the dissolution of parliament, paving the way for the early general elections.

The vote is not expected to change the political map of Egypt or erode the position of Mubarak, whose popularity has soared because of his handling of the Gulf crisis.

Because Mubarak has not named a vice president, Egypt's constitution considers the speaker of the People's Assembly the second-ranking official after the president. Mahjoub had been speaker since 1984.

After the shooting, Mahjoub's widow was brought briefly to the hotel, crying hysterically, she sobbed: "Just let me see him."

The speaker's body was later driven away in an ambulance, accompanied by two brothers.

A police lieutenant said Mahjoub sat in the rear seat of the Mercedes when the attackers struck. He said the dead man in the front of the car was a bodyguard but that the driver survived. Musa said the driver has disappeared and may be in hospital.

A witness said he saw a wounded man rushing to a garage near the attack scene shouting: "I have nothing to do with this. Let me live." The witness quoted bystanders as saying the man had jumped from Mahjoub's car.

In recent weeks, newspaper commentators and cartoonists have been mocking the outgoing People's Assembly and indirectly skewering Mahjoub for his position on the referendum.

Although he never said so publicly, he was known to oppose the dissolution of the assembly and

new elections.

The speaker was born in April 1926 and graduated from Cairo University law school in 1948. He took a doctorate in economics from the University of Paris in 1953. He has four children.

The slain speaker was a constant target of opposition criticism because of his handling of parliamentary proceedings.

Mubarak said Thursday the Gulf crisis cannot be linked with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The Gulf crisis is an Arab problem... the Palestinian question is an Arab-Israeli problem," said Mubarak. "If we say that we are going to link the two, this means that we don't want to solve anything at all."

But Mubarak endorsed the idea of sending an international force to police the Israeli-occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, to protect Al Aqsa mosque and other religious shrines.

U.N. move hangs in balance

(Continued from page 1)

least twice and resurrected an accompanying letter previously criticised by non-aligned nations.

British Ambassador David Hannay said: "I think this is the time we must have a vote... by next week this would not be very easy to manage."

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told reporters shortly before informal council consultations. "We are now at the stage where we have to fish or cut bait on this particular effort and it would be a tragedy if the council can't react."

The United States spent all day Thursday talking to non-aligned countries individually and both ambassadors from these nations and Pickering said the Non-Aligned Movement did not follow the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) on every aspect of the resolution.

"I think there is a difference between demands of the PLO on many of these questions," Pickering said.

"They told us they are moving on their own and we are grateful for this," he added.

One revised resolution distributed by Hannay says the council was "alarmed" by the violence which took place in Jerusalem Monday and "in this regard especially" condemns the acts of violence committed by Israeli forces.

It calls for Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a mission to the region and submit a report by the end of October but does not spell out the aims of such a mission, which the PLO and its supporters have insisted it do.

U.S. build-up near completion

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq in the next two months, unless there is a "provocation" by Iraq, according to a television report Thursday.

Another U.S. television report said American pilots in the Middle East are repeatedly confronting Iraqi air force pilots in aerial showdowns. The report also said the Soviet Union has given the Defence Department details on how Iraq's Soviet-built missiles work that could help U.S. pilots.

NBC News, quoting unidentified

senior Defence Department sources, said there would be no attack on Iraq in October or November.

But the network said war could break out earlier if Iraq harms Westerners being held in Iraq and Kuwait or if Iraq is blamed for a guerrilla attack against Western targets.

The network said U.S. allies could also trigger a conflict, for instance by provoking Iraq. NBC quoted senior U.S. administration officials as saying that Saudi air force pilots were routinely flying into Kuwait to lease the Iraqis

Arab League to meet Oct. 17

(Continued from page 1)

accompanying the group called the "Temple Mount faithful."

"We also call the international community to take the necessary measures to provide protection to the Palestinian people from Israeli practices, practices which violate their basic right to life and threaten the

integrity of their religious sanctities," Habib added.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi said Israel had to be done away with because of the massacre.

"The new Zionist measure means only that it is necessary to eliminate the Jewish state from the Middle East (and) establish a democratic Palestinian state including all."

Thousands rally in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

any time over these last 40 plus years and we have really had enough," said one of the organisers of the rally.

As the female protesters walked to the Professional Associations Complex, church bells and the call of muezzin overlapped as the two groups agreed to let both the Friday mid-day call to prayer and the sound of church bells commemorate the deaths of the Palestinians killed last Monday.

"Now that the Israelis have gone to the point where they shoot people while they are praying there seems to be no room for the belief that they will ever respect Palestinians' rights to live, worship and be equal citizens of the Holy Land," said another.

But it was the rally organised by Islamist political groups that drew the largest overall crowd of the day in the downtown Mahatta square.

As the afternoon began and dark clouds lay overhead, about 30,000 people were led in a protest chant by Islamist leaders who addressed the rally.

In the largest and best organised rally to date since Monday's massacre, so-called independent Islamists threw in their lot with Muslim Brotherhood members to draw crowds in the downtown square.

Previously an attempt by a grouping of pan-Arabist, leftists and Islamists to arrange a massive rally to protest the killings had been foiled when the Muslim Brotherhood refused to cooperate.

Independent Islamists like deputies Laith Shabbat and Atef Broush and other non-Brotherhood Islamists like Walid Seif and Nasr Yousef participated in the rally, which had the rigid discipline and dialectic tone of the many Brotherhood rallies that Jordan has witnessed since last November when parliamentary elections were held for the first time in 22 years.

Some long-time political observers believed that the presence of "moderate" Islamists at a basically Brotherhood rally marked a change in their so-called centrist stand. "It may be that because the pan-Arabist and leftists could not get their act together these people are coming together," said one observer.

"There should be no excuse for not arming the population to prepare them for self-defence, and financial problems are not an excuse," said a Muslim Brotherhood parliamentarian.

As black, green, Jordanian and Palestinian flags waved in the afternoon breeze of the square and the crowd chanted in unison, hundreds of children on the surrounding hillsides waved photographs of Arafat, burned the American flag and chanted "Palestine is Arab land."

In Ramtha, Zarqa, Jerash and many other towns, villages and refugee camps across the country people took to the streets to protest what many people in Jordan feel is the last straw in Israel's violation of human, national and religious rights of the Palestinians.

PLO moving closer to linkage

(Continued from page 1)

more than 30 Palestinians last week in Jerusalem. According to PLO officials, speaker for speaker criticised officials who have made statements to distance the organisation from Iraq.

They rejected attempts by some PLO officials to "neutralise" the PLO in the confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.

Even though names were not mentioned it was understood that the target of the criticisms were some of Arafat's close aides, including Hani Al Hassan, Nabul Shaath, Jaweed Al Ghusseini and PLO representative in Cairo Saïd Kamal and to a lesser extent Bassam Abu Sharif.

PLO officials said a letter signed by Hassan expressing full Palestinian support for Saudi Arabia was attacked. The letter was widely distributed last month by the Saudi Arabian embassy in Jordan.

Hassan, according to Palestinian sources, defended himself by implying that he was acting upon instructions from the leadership. "However, Arafat did not endorse his statement," one PLO official said.

Other PLO officials are convinced that Arafat had prior agreement of the letter in an attempt to calm Saudi anger and prevent the expulsion of Palestinians working in the Gulf states.

But last week, during a short visit to Amman, Arafat expressed a defiant position regarding Gulf states' implicit and explicit threats to deport the more than 700,000 Palestinians working there.

"It will not be the first time... Palestinians were expelled in waves for 10 times for supporting late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser and twice to appease the late Shah of Iran," he told reporters here last week.

"We tell them that depriving people from their livelihood is tantamount to killing them," he said.

By Friday night, Arafat's final position on how far the statement should go in linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian problem was not clear. In his opening speech at the PCC meeting, however, Arafat called for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions pertaining to all problems of the region and rejected selectivity in applying these resolutions.

Last week in Amman Arafat indicated that he would not accept anything less than a full linkage between all Middle Eastern problems and that he was unequivocally siding with Iraq in its confrontation with the U.S.

"You cannot expect me as the leader of the Arab national liberation movement... to be neutral in a confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.," he had said.

In an interview with the American Cable News Network (CNN) Thursday, Arafat avoided taking the same clear-cut position.

PLO officials said that previously reported PLO plans which drew a rather loose link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem were not discussed by the PCC.

One report appearing in a local newspaper cited nine steps promoted by the PLO to solve the Gulf crisis and then move towards a settlement of other problems without making a concrete schedule or steps. But, PLO sources said, these were not even mentioned at the meeting.

"We fear that a loose linkage would just lead to an American solution to the Gulf crisis leaving the Palestinian problem unresolved," a senior PLO official said.

During the PCC meeting, both leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh respectively made lengthy speeches demanding democratic reforms in the PLO, the formation of a broad national front in the occupied territories including the Islamist resistance movement (Hamas), and the endorsement of a detailed mechanism which links the solution of the Gulf crisis to a settlement for all problems, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict.

One proposal that has been long advocated says the PCC can call for a broad international conference to solve all problems of the region following the pattern of the international peace conference to settle the Cambodian problem, PLO officials said.

The PLO might suggest, they said, that in addition to the parties involved in all the conflicts and the five U.N. Security Council permanent members, the participation should be broadened to include other influential countries such as Japan and Germany.

An escalation of the intifada, including the use of arms, was also among the demands of many speakers at the PCC.

But PLO officials said it was unlikely for any resort to the use of arms. "The debate rather revolved on escalating armed operations against Israeli military targets by commandos rather than suggesting that the intifada would turn into arms," DFLP official Ahmad Jamal told the Jordan Times Friday night.

An official in Tunis said that the PCC was expected to recommend the activation of the PLO's force in South Lebanon in attacks against Israeli military targets.

Israelis besiege Aqsa

(Continued from page 1)

The latest victims of Israeli violence were Ammar Derouiche, 20, from the West Bank village of Toubas, and Rami Jarar, 18, from nearby Jenin, reports said. Derouiche was fatally shot in the head in a stone-throwing clash with troops, they said, and Jarar was hit in an artery in the leg as soldiers chased curfew violators.

Police fired green dye from water cannon to disperse 150 young men who demonstrated after praying in the road outside Jerusalem's city walls after being denied entry to Al Aqsa.

But the heavy police deployment kept the lid on Arab anger over the massacre Monday and prevented the usual surge of worshippers from midday prayers into the strike-bound city bazaar.

Para-military border police searched Arabs entering the Old City. They prevented young men from the mosques and barred Palestinians

from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Jerusalem.

Only a few thousands middle-aged and old men, and several hundred women attended prayers at the Haram Al Sharif instead of the usual 15,000.

Police cancelled seven soccer games in Arab towns scheduled for Saturday for fear of protests.

Jews in black hats and frock coats danced and sang in a religious festival by the western wall early Friday near the bloodstains of the Palestinians shot dead Monday.

About 10,000 Jews, some waving Israeli flags, roared with approval as speakers defended the shooting which has earned Israel global condemnation.

Only hours before the all-night festival began Thursday white-scarved women circled the bloodied flagstones of the golden Dome of the Rock mourning the dead and cursing their killers.

Religious leaders had urged Jews to turn out in force on Thursday night causing fears of renewed Arab unrest.

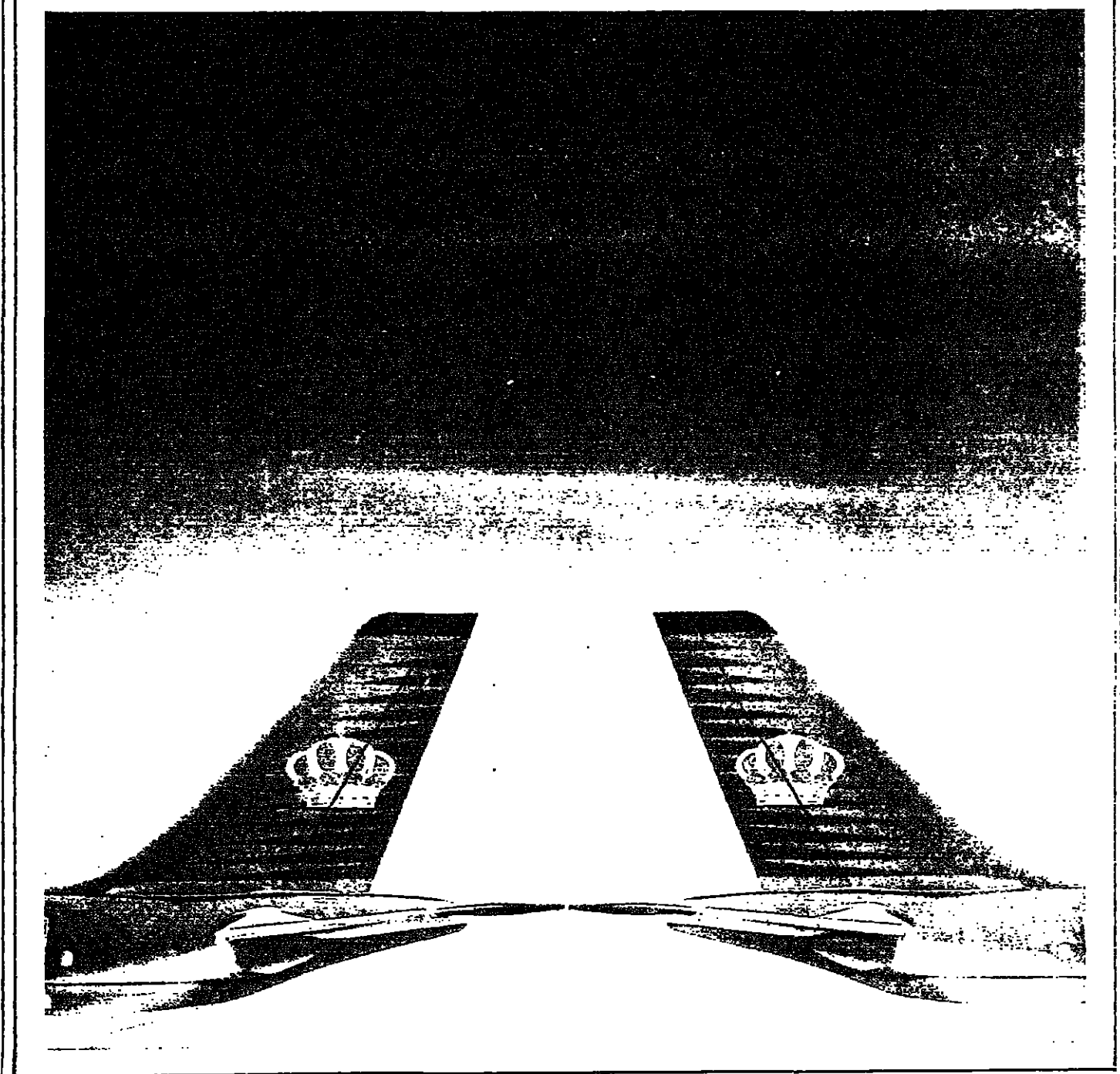
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Faroes fairytale ends in land of little mermaid

COPENHAGEN (R) — The Faroese Islands' fairytale progress across the stage of world soccer was brought to an abrupt halt by Denmark, appropriately enough in the land of Hans Christian Andersen.

The team of amateurs who sensationally beat Austria last month on their competitive international debut, were comprehensively outplayed by Denmark in a European Championship qualifying match.

But despite their 4-1 defeat, the Faroese team flew home to their windswept corner of the Danish kingdom Thursday claiming a moral victory.

"Playing Denmark was something special for us, like playing against our big brother," said Captain Joannes Jakobsen.

"They under-rate us all the time but we showed Denmark their little brother was better than they thought."

The Faroese, an autonomous region of Denmark, rocked their opponents Wednesday when they equalized in the face of a ferocious onslaught.

But the more talented Danes drew on their international experience to produce goals at crucial stages of the match.

Michael Laudrup's opener after eight minutes and another two goals immediately before and after the interval exploited perfectly the vulnerability of the participants.

"Conceding those goals either side of halftime showed how inexperienced we are," said Faroese coach Palle Gudlaugsson.

"If we had gone in level at halftime it would have been a completely different game. But I think we surprised some people again."

Gudlaugsson believes his side have justified the European Football Union's (UEFA) decision to let them compete in the championship.

"You must remember Greece have lost here 7-1 and Sweden 6-0 in recent years. I think it was a moral victory for us."

The men from the mid-Atlantic were clearly overawed at times by the 38,000 crowd — 10 times the size of any they had previously played in front of.

While the home fans came anticipating a larger goal feast, Danish coach Richard Moeller

Nielsen proclaimed satisfaction with the outcome.

Victory and two points were more important than the number of goals, he said.

But in a group which could be decided on goal difference, Nielsen must have been disappointed that Denmark's unrelenting pressure was not more fully rewarded.

Meanwhile Nielsen has made one change to his squad for their European Championship soccer qualifier against Northern Ireland in Belfast next Wednesday.

Veteran midfielder John Heit, capped 38 times, was named Thursday in place of reserve striker Bent Christensen for the Danes' second match in eight days.

Norway, Hungary tie

In Oslo, Hungary held Norway to a 0-0 draw in a group three European soccer championship qualifier at Brann Stadium in Bergen Wednesday night.

Norway put pressure on the Hungarians throughout the game but failed to score despite several excellent chances. It was the second straight qualifier in which Norway failed to score, having dropped a 2-0 decision to the Soviet Union in the opener.

"Only a victory is good enough now," said Norwegian coach Ingvor Stadelheim after the match.

"We should have scored three goals. This was a big disappointment for us."

Other teams in group three are Italy and Cyprus.

Per Egil Ahlsen and Erik Pedersen both had great shots for Norway, but Hungarian goalkeeper Zoltan Petry produced excellent saves.

Rune Bratseth was even closer to scoring for Norway when he sneaked up after a free kick, but Petry once again blocked the shot.

Kalman Kovacs and Jozsef Kiprich created Hungary's best chances and could have had a penalty shot when Kiprich was brought down from behind, but the referee decided against it.

Spain beats Iceland 2-1

In Seville, Spain defeated Iceland 2-1 (1-0) Wednesday in a

group one qualification soccer match for the European Cup of Nations in Sweden in 1992.

The home team went all out from the start and submitted the Icelanders to an almost constant siege, but found it difficult to get through their solid defence system.

The Icelanders threw as many as nine men back in defence, mainly during the first half.

The Spaniards, cheered by a crowd of 45,000 filling the Benito Villamarín Stadium, opened the score in the 44th minute, when Captain Emilio Butragueno, playing his 55th international match for Spain, headed in the ball from the hands of goalie Bjornir Sigurdsson.

Carlos Munoz made it 2-0 in the 64th following another Spanish attack.

But one minute later, Sigurdur Jonsson scored for Iceland, profiting from a failure of the Spanish defence.

After the goal, the Icelanders opened their lines and launched well organized attacks, unsuccessfully seeking the equalizer.

Germany outclasses Sweden

In Stockholm, world champions Germany outclassed Sweden 3-1 in a soccer friendly Wednesday to give Bertie Vogts his first victory since taking over as national coach from Franz Beckenbauer.

Italy-based World Cup heroes Jurgen Klinsmann, Rudi Voeller and Andreas Brehme struck in a 17-minute period in the first half as the Germans threatened to overrun the Swedes.

Klinsmann volleyed the first in the 28th minute. Voeller headed the second 10 minutes later and Brehme rounded off the blitz with a long-range shot one minute before the interval.

Sweden reduced the deficit in the 73rd minute when Stefan Rehn netted a penalty, but the outcome was never in doubt.

The match was Vogts' second since replacing Beckenbauer. The first was an uninspired 1-1 draw in another friendly against Portugal.

The Germans open their European championship qualifying campaign with a group five match against Luxembourg on Oct. 31.

Kasparov topples Karpov in 2nd game

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Reigning world chess king Garry Kasparov won his second championship game against archrival Anatoly Karpov with a crisp attack typical of his flamboyant style.

Kasparov used the advantage of having the first move to build up pressure against black's defenses, eventually culminating in an explosive whirlwind attack that left Karpov helpless.

Both men dashed off their first 18 moves, eager to reach a complex position that both had prepared in depth before the match.

The champion unveiled a finesse that increased his attacking potential and launched a risky but dangerous assault that provoked heated debate among expert observers.

Grandmasters predicted every possible result, but Kasparov's grasp of the baffling complexities proved profound.

"One of the best games I have ever seen" international master Victor Fries told Reuters. "It looked like perfect execution to me — Kasparov kept it clean and simple."

Karpov was forced to relinquish a rook and two pawns for a knight to prevent the champion from achieving checkmate, a difference in forces that rendered his position completely hopeless.

Kasparov remained at the board for the final moves, rocking his head and grimacing in disbelief as his adversary prolonged the contest.

Instead of making his 44th move, Karpov acknowledged his defeat with a murmur. The players shook hands to a standing ovation from fans gathered in the Hudson Theatre.

The two men fought to a draw Monday. Kasparov's victory Wednesday earned him one point, giving him 1-1/2 points so far to Karpov's 1/2 point. His lead is more formidable considering that he has the champion's advantage of retaining the title in the event of a 12-12 tie. Karpov would have to win 12-1/2 points to take the championship.

The 24-game series, split between New York and Lyon, France, is scheduled to continue Friday with Karpov having the advantage of playing white, giving him the first move.

Several observers said Wednesday's game was decided long before Karpov gave it up.

"It's been over since around move 25, because black's pieces on the queen's side couldn't defend his king," said grandmaster John Fedorowicz of New York.

Grandmaster Hans Ree of Holland agreed that Karpov could have resigned several moves earlier.

"He was just playing on to get used to the idea of resigning," Ree said.

North beats South in historic Korean friendly

SEOUL (R) — North Korea scored twice in the second half to beat South Korea 2-1 in an historic soccer friendly — the first sports competition between the divided nations on home soil.

The two Koreas have been bitter ideological foes since the 1950-53 Korea War which sealed the division of the peninsula.

A crowd of 150,000 packed the May 1 Stadium in the North Korean capital Pyongyang to see Kim Joo-Sung give South Korea

the lead in the 25th minute.

The North Koreans equalized in the 49th minute when Yoon Jong-Su scored with a long-range shot. The Northerners kept up the pressure and Tak Yong-Bin scored the winner from the penalty spot a few minutes from time.

Earlier, fans and sung "our wish is unification" as the two sides came on the pitch side by side. Millions of South Koreans watched the match on television.

Olimpia of Paraguay wins Libertadores Cup

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) — Paraguayan soccer champions Olimpia won the Libertadores Cup Latin American club championship by holding Barcelona of Ecuador to a 1-1 draw in the second leg of the final.

Olimpia, who lost in the final last year, won 3-1 on aggregate after winning the first leg in Paraguay 2-0 a week ago.

Ecuadorian champions Barcelona, playing in their first Libertadores Cup final, threw everything into attack to try to erase the

two-goal deficit.

But determined defending by Olimpia and a string of fine saves by Olimpia's goalkeeper Ever Almeida kept them out, disappointing a 50,000-strong home crowd.

After a goalless first half, Barcelona had the chance to take the lead six minutes into the second half when Argentine striker Luis Alberto Acosta was fouled in the penalty area. Acosta took the penalty himself but Almeida brought off a good save.

Edberg, Lendl, Reneberg and Becker advance to Tokyo semis

TOKYO (AP) — Ivan Lendl had 12 service aces to beat Scott Davis of the United States and Stefan Edberg struggled through a third-set tiebreaker to defeat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, as both advanced into the semifinals of the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament Friday.

Other semifinalists in the \$1-million championship are American Richey Reneberg and Boris Becker of Germany.

The top-ranked and top-seeded Edberg scored a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6) triumph over Hlasek in the quarter finals.

The third-seeded Lendl overwhelmed Davis 7-6 (7-0), 6-2 on the artificial courts of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

In other quarterfinal matches,

second-seeded Becker defeated Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, 6-4, 6-4 and unseeded Reneberg romped over qualifier Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 6-3, 6-2.

Lendl broke Davis in the first game but Davis broke back the sixth. Lendl dominated the tiebreak with accurate serves and well-placed service returns.

In the second set, Lendl kept the first game to love, then broke Davis in the fourth and eighth games.

"I served very well today," Lendl said. "I was broken because of the surface. Scott served into my backhands. It doesn't matter how well I play, I still don't like this (fast) surface."

Graf and Sabatini reach quarterfinals in indoor games

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini, the two top seeds, posted straight-set victories Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 European Indoors Tennis Tournament.

Defending champion Graf, the world's top-ranked female player, extended her unbeaten streak at the Zurich tourney with an unchallenged 6-1, 6-1 second-round victory over unseeded South African Dinky van Rensburg.

Second-seeded Sabatini fought off a set point in rallying from a 2-5 second-set deficit against Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

The 20-year-old Argentine, the year's U.S. Open champion, won 6-4, 7-5.

Graf, going for her fourth Zurich title, meets seventh-seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France in the quarterfinals, whom she beat in straight sets in 10 previous encounters.

Tauziat advanced to the round of eight with a 6-4, 6-2 win over compatriot Nathalie Guenerre.

Sabatini faces fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who eliminated Switzerland's Emanuela Zardo in the second round 6-4, 7-5.

No. 3 seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland ousted Claudia Porwik of Germany 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

Fourth-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, Zurich finalist last year against Graf, defeated Argentina's Mercedes Paz, 6p2, 6-2.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pleison, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are in a safe position to handle the discord that may be stirred up today but be careful how you accept the challenge put to you by a member of the opposite sex who is tense.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into whatever material goals you have not done and push them to the utmost so you can benefit from a situation that is all to your best interests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some very good judgment today for going after the various things that you want the most so don't procrastinate but use every moment wisely.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you don't tell all your ambitious plans now or you lose some of your potential for later carrying out a very well thought-out venture.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to go after your intimate aims with courage, confidence and good hard common sense and you can surely make big headway to gain them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The outside world is your oyster today and if you contact and let prominent people know of your worldly aims you can surely get much assistance.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You win today in proportion to your branching out in new areas of

activity so don't hesitate to look into whatever advance ideas are at your fingertips.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take some time out to get into those new formulas and systems by which you can have a greater efficiency and operative skills in your business affairs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It depends upon the material minded person you may contact and get advice from or do business with, whether you get the big benefits possible for you now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day with considerable good luck can attend whatever business you go to and especially in chance now present to extend it to larger scope.

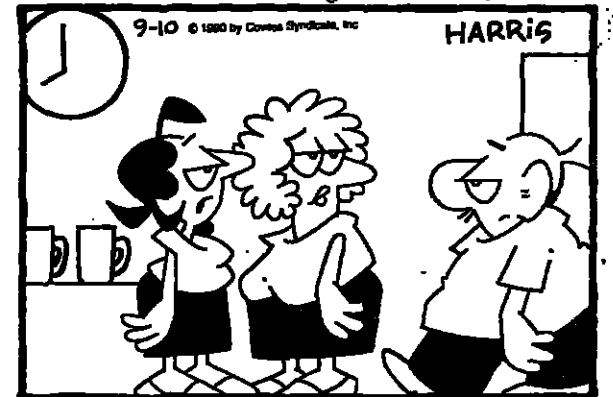
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your creative ideas are at a new high and you would be wise to utilize them to their greatest possible advantage for building up your prospects.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to forget those big daydreams and wishful thinking and get into fundamentals ways to increase your success in practical matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There is an opening now for you to be much more productive by some communications with influential persons who see your talent and will back it up.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Stanley treats me just like a queen! Queen Elizabeth — he never takes her out either!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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GROUME

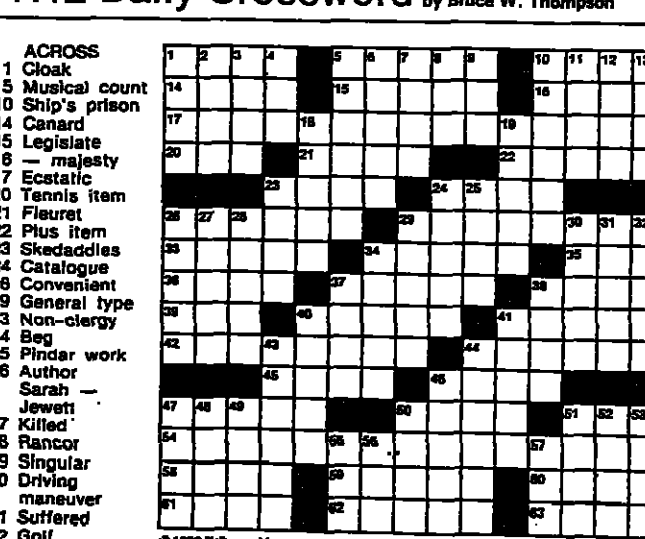
HATTUG

ANSWER: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKIMP EXPEL ACCENT DAMPEN

Answer: What the hosts said, when their welcome was outstayed by a guest—"PEST!"

THE Daily Crossword by Bruce W. Thompson



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Actor
2. First-class
3. History
4. Eng. river
5. Paged
6. Baxter and Bancroft
7. Glut
8. "bin bin Berlin" (Kestner)
9. Ordinal suffix
10. Detonations
11. Guts a motor
12. "A dagger that —"
13. Man
14. Let's
15. Alleviated
16. Eastern gulf
17. Nursery rhyme
18. Hot drink
19. Phonician city
20. Torch
21. Linen cloth
22. Felt or Alford
23. Woodwinds
24. Choke jobs
25. Street sign
26. Cold
27. Slow in music
28. Indian
29. Trench
30. Actor Novello
31. Sacked
32. In full
33. Measure
34. Certain group
35. Posed
36. "H... million..."
37. Relatives
38. Seicom
39. 50 Sacked
40. 51 Warhol
41. 52 Addie
42. 53 Hackman
43. 54 Posed
44. 55 Altar words
45. 56 Corrode

Injury-hit France faces crucial clash

PARIS (R) — Michel Platini's exciting French team, depleted by a steadily mounting casualty list, face a crucial European soccer championship Group One qualifier Saturday against Czechoslovakia, themselves missing two key players.

Four of the 17 players Platini, named for the match have already had to withdraw. Winger Christian Perez pulled out before the squad even got together and captain Manuel Amoros, midfielder Bernard Pardo and playmaker Philippe Verriyuse, all three, from champions Marseille, followed on consecutive days.

As the four casualties were certain selections, Platini has been forced to reshuffle his team and one of the replacements, Paris St. Germain midfielder Jocelyn Angloma, has been pitched in for a surprise debut in the national team at his home stadium, the Parc Des Princes.

"The jigsaw puzzle I have been piecing together for 18 months has had to be remade in two days," a disappointed Platini said.

Czechoslovakia, under new trainer Milan Macala, have problems of their own with captain Ivan Hasek ruled out with injury

and striker Vaclav Danek retained for a league match by his Austrian club Tirol.

Danek scored the only goal of the match against Iceland in an unimpressive opening on home ground to Czechoslovakia's campaign to reach the 1992 finals in Sweden.

France gained a psychological advantage by winning 2-1 in Iceland last month after a hard-fought match in which the points mattered far more than the performance. Iceland are no easy touch as they proved once again by going down just 2-1 away to Spain

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
TAMMAM HIRSH
1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K74 ♠K2 ♠AJ10 ♠QJ983
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—The kings in partner's suits enhance the value of your hand, so you don't think you should sign off with three no trump, despite your solid stoppers in the unbid suit. However, you do not have adequate support for either of partner's suits. Cue-bid three diamonds; partner's next bid should give you a better idea of the potential of the combined holding.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK1075 ♠3 ♠KJ5 ♠A1063
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?
A.—You have an unbalanced hand, so there is no reason why you should want to pass. Since partner's hand could be completely unsuited to spades, and you can play in any one of three suits, make your natural rebid of two clubs to see what develops.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠762 ♠Q8 ♠AKQ ♠AKJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You have a very good hand and no convenient way to show it! To jump in no trump without a stopper in the unbid suit would be tantamount to suicide, and you are short a club for a jump to three clubs. The solution is to reverse with two diamonds, which is forcing for a

round.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K5 ♠AJ5 ♠7 ♠Q865432
The bidding has proceeded:
West North South
1 NT 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Only a supreme pessimist would consider passing. Since partner should have both a good hand and good suit at this vulnerability, it's simply a matter of whether to bid three or four spades. With only two trumps, your ruffing power is limited, so we prefer the conservative raise to three spades.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q87 ♠KJ63 ♠64 ♠AK82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—There are those who labor under the misapprehension that North's jump to game is a "drop dead" bid. Far from it—it shows a powerful hand worth some 20 points in support of hearts. You are in the slam zone unless you have two fast losers in spades. Blackwood won't help. Start by cue-bidding five clubs.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ762 ♠AK5 ♠AK8 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—There might be a scientific way to ascertain whether partner has the cards you need to make slam, but we don't know of one other than, perhaps, relay bids. We would simply jump to four no trump and bid six hearts if partner shows at least one ace.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



China opens first grain wholesale market

BEIJING (AP) — In one of its few economic reform moves this year, China opened a national wheat wholesale market Friday to replace central allocation of the nation's 85 million-ton annual wheat harvest.

More than 200 grain trading companies were to participate in trading on opening day at the wholesale grain market in Zhengzhou, the provincial capital of Henan, China's wheat heartland, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The market is one of China's few ongoing experiments in using market forces to replace four decades of central planning. Most other reform initiatives were halted two years ago when conservatives accused the reformists of overheating the economy and generating market chaos.

The Zhengzhou market's opening was delayed two years by inadequate planning and ideological reservations. Some conservative officials have denounced futures trading for being speculative.

They have allowed the Zhengzhou market to go ahead because it will help the central government manage grain distribution, long a serious problem.

Although the government buys most grain grown in China, it lacks a network of modern storage facilities and in bumper years much grain is left to rot outdoors. Serious shortages have occurred in some regions while others have surpluses.

China still lacks wholesale markets for its chief grain, rice. China harvests 169 million metric tonnes of rice annually.

Most of the Zhengzhou market's wheat will be sold for future delivery, on key element of a futures market. However, William Grossman, managing director of the Chicago Board of Trade's Asia-Pacific Office, said the Zhengzhou operation lacks another element of a true futures market, standardised contracts.

The Chicago Board of Trade, the world's largest futures market, has been training Chinese personnel and offering advice but will not be involved in the Zhengzhou market's management.

A futures market allows buyers and sellers to negotiate a price for what they think a commodity will be worth at a future date. The price holds regardless of subsequent market changes.

"The most immediate effect will be to promote circulation. In the long term, it will promote price discovery," Grossman said.

Until now, it state grain bureaus in each province had to go through the central government to buy or sell wheat to other provinces, setting a price through negotiation. The Zhengzhou market streamlines the process by bringing buyers and sellers together. Individual farmers will still sell their wheat to the state and will not be allowed to take part in the market operations.

Commerce Minister Hu Ping said in June that the market will set maximum and minimum prices. If the price threatens to go above the ceiling, the market will automatically close.

S. Korea takes part in Libyan oil projects

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea agreed Thursday to take part in Libyan oil development projects, along with an unidentified British company, officials said. Energy and resources ministry officials said a 25-year contract was signed in Tripoli between Libya and the Korea Oil Development Corp., allowing the Korean company to drill wells in three areas. Five South Korean companies will form a consortium to invest \$30 million in the projects, with another \$30 million to be provided by a British company, the officials said. They did not name the British company. The Korean company would keep part of the oil produced.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Thursday, October 11, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	651.0	655.0	French franc	127.3	128.1
Pound Sterling	1283.9	1291.6	Japanese yen (for 100)	301.9	304.9
Deutschemark	426.1	433.7	Dutch guilder	378.0	380.3
Swiss franc	507.8	510.8	Swedish crown	115.5	116.2
			Italian lira (for 100)	56.9	57.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	207.1	208.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES					
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.					
One Sterling	1.9720/30	U.S. dollar			
One U.S. dollar	1.1460/70	Canadian dollar			
	1.5190/95	Deutschemark			
	1.7120/30	Dutch guilders			
	1.2785/95	Swiss francs			
	31.18/23	Belgian francs			
	5.0875/0925	French francs			
	1139/1140	Italian lire			
	128.62/72	Japanese yen			
	5.6150/6200	Swedish crowns			
	5.8800/50	Norwegian crowns			
	5.7850/7900	Danish crowns			
One ounce of gold	389.00/50	U.S. dollars			

Brady asks Congress for \$40b more for savings and loans bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is asking Congress to provide \$40 billion more for the savings and loans bailout. Without the money, thrift rescues "will virtually cease within the next two months," he said in a letter released Thursday.

The money — to cover the losses in failed savings and loans — would be in addition to the \$50 billion authorised under last year's thrift legislation. It also would be on top of about \$60 billion in short-term borrowing, which would be repaid as regula-

tors sell assets inherited from bankrupt institutions.

Brady's letter to the Democratic and Republican leaders of the congressional banking committees, dated Wednesday, follows weeks of pressure from Democrats who said they were reluctant to provide more money without a specific request from the Bush administration.

Treasury Department officials had said a range of \$40 billion to \$80 billion more than last year's \$50 billion was needed for savings and loans, but had not made a specific request.

Brady said in the letter that it would be appropriate for Congress to give the administration open-ended spending authority. Because Congress may not want to go along, however, Brady said \$40 billion would be enough to finance savings and loans rescues through the end of fiscal 1991 on Sept. 30.

The administration also would accept \$20 billion to finance the programme through April, treasury officials have said.

The Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC) created last year to dispose of failed savings and loans, is "projecting that RTC case resolutions will virtually cease within the next two months unless additional funds are provided," Brady said. He asked Congress to act before it adjourns for the year.

The nation's 2,800 savings and loans are banks that make personal and mortgage loans. Due to adverse economic circumstances and mismanagement, hundreds of them got into financial difficulties in recent years. The 13,000 U.S. commercial banks, which primarily make business loans, were largely unaffected by the crisis.

'Love affair with silver seems over'

LONDON (AP) — Recession fears sent silver and platinum plummeting more than five per cent in active trading Thursday, reaching its lowest level in 14 years, analysts said.

The spot price of silver fell 25.5 cents, or 5.6 per cent, to \$4.28 from a late bid of \$4.535 in London Wednesday.

Thursday's late bid was the lowest level since 1976, according to Shearson Lehman Brothers Ltd. The low for that year was \$3.82.

"It's no longer a precious metal, it's an industrial metal," said Nick Hatch, a mining analyst at the London investment firm James Capel and Co.

The spot price of platinum fell \$23.50, or 5.3 per cent to \$418.75 an ounce in London from \$442.25 an ounce late Wednesday.

That was its lowest level since 1985, Shearson said, adding that the low that year was \$244.

Thomas Butler, a precious metals analyst at the London investment firm Samuel Montagu and Co., said: "Both silver and platinum are suffering from mounting fears of an economic downturn."

"Both these metals have very strong industrial bases and fears that a recession may emerge soon are obviously undermining prices," he said.

Silver is most widely used in the photographic industry and that demand is down, Hatch said. Silverware, a luxury item, is also coming under pressure from the economic slowdown, he said.

There is too much silver around because 70 per cent of the world's silver is produced as a byproduct of gold and other mining, Butler said. That means supply doesn't respond to changes in demand.

Silver mines in Chile and U.S. states of Alaska and Nevada also are increasing production, while a lot of scrap was being recovered, Hatch said.

This year's total demand will come to 14,850 tonnes, surpassing expected supply of 14,400 tonnes, Hatch said. But he noted a stockpile of approximately 10,000 tonnes.

While investors have tended to snap up oversupply in the past, Butler said, that is no longer the case.

"The long-term love affair with silver seems to be over," he said.

Silver rose as high as \$35 an ounce in 1980 when the Hunt Brothers of Texas tried to corner the silver market, Hatch said. It has fallen fairly steadily since, spiking up over \$9 an ounce in 1987, he said.

Saudi banks plan new financial mechanism

DUBAI (R) — Saudi banks plan a new money market instrument for the Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates which may help break some of the barriers to normal trading created by fears of war in the Gulf, dealers and brokers said Thursday.

Setting up a new instrument in a market is not easy at the best of times and Gulf dealers and brokers agree the Gulf crisis is not the ideal time to do so.

Nevertheless, they hope the new FRAs (forward rate agreements) will give more depth to their interbank market, the main money market for banks themselves.

FRAs are in common use in major international money markets. They allow two parties to agree a deal based on an interest rate over a specified period for a set principal amount, the interest to be paid at a specified future settlement date.

But no principal changes hands. Exposure is limited to the difference between the agreed and actual interest rates at settlement.

This ability to hedge against interest rate changes without touching underlying bank liquidity could help banks under crisis conditions, dealers said.

FRAs — since they offer this highly geared hedge on future interest rates — could also allow foreign banks to increase credit lines to the besieged Gulf institutions, they said.

India to cut oil use by 15%

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate said Friday the government would cut oil consumption by 15 per cent and hinted at big increases in the price of petrol and oil products.

Dandavate told a news conference steps would be taken to prevent a black market emerging, but gave no details on how the government would administer the cutbacks.

Asked if the measures could be part of preparations for seeking a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said: "That is correct."

"We have not taken any decision on rationing," Dandavate said.

Dandavate said he discussed various concessional loans with IMF and World Bank officials in Washington at the annual meeting of the lending agencies last month.

"We don't want to be dictated (to) by conditionality, but we want to be practical," he said. "We on our own will introduce fiscal discipline. We know the crisis, the hard options."

An IMF loan with conditions on fiscal reforms has been controversial for a long time in India, which takes pride in its economic independence.

But Dandavate said if oil prices averaged \$25 a barrel over the next 12 months it would cost India an extra \$2.5 billion and Delhi needed help.

The government was considering raising prices of petrol and oil products to reflect the doubling of world prices since Iraq invaded Kuwait, he said.

But he added that the cabinet had not made a final decision.

Raising oil prices would fuel inflationary pressures in the economy and have a dampening effect on industrial production, he said.

Indian inflation is running at an annualised rate of nearly nine per cent.

"Better we suffer today so we can be relieved tomorrow," Dandavate said.

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Chile proposes setting up fund for L. America

CARACAS (R) — Chile's president has appealed to Latin American oil producers set to earn windfalls from the Gulf crisis to lend some of the extra money to the region's less fortunate nations.

"It's a question of seeing how we can show solidarity towards each other by creating a financial aid mechanism to help the development of our countries," President Patricio Aylwin told a news conference.

The Chilean president, who described the plan as "an idea to be talked over," said a special investment fund should be established "with the aim of granting loans or support to countries on the continent."

Thatcher sends tough message to EC bureaucrats

BOURNEMOUTH, England (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told European bureaucrats Friday that her government will not let them dictate the future course of European unity.

"We do not judge how European you are by how much you want to increase the power of the unelected commission," Thatcher said in her keynote speech to the annual conference of her ruling Conservative Party.

"Intervention, centralisation and lack of accountability may appeal to socialists," she said. "They have no place in our conservative philosophy."

Thatcher made a cutting personal attack on European Commission President Jacques Delors and his plans for European monetary union.

"This government has no intention of agreeing to the imposition of a single currency," Thatcher told the conference in the southern seaside resort of Bournemouth.

"That would be entering a federal Europe through the back door (back-door)," she said.

Britain joined the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) last Monday, pegging its currency to that of nine other European countries.

This move put Britain in line with the first stage of Delors' three-stage plan for European monetary union. This provides for the eventual creation of a single European currency and central bank.

But Thatcher made clear that Britain would resist any further loss of sovereignty and would continue to push its own scheme for a new European currency to operate alongside existing national currencies.

Diplomats and political commentators say joining the ERM has given Thatcher a platform from which to attack the Delors strategy for monetary union.

"Europe cannot be built by ignoring or suppressing this sense of nationhood, by trying to turn us into regions rather than nations," she said Friday.

"The way forward lies in willing cooperation between independent sovereign states."

Thatcher repeated her call for Europe to let the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe join the 12-nation European Community in due course.

Britain would help prepare the Community for expansion by resisting unnecessary regulation and bureaucracy, she added.

Thatcher portrayed Britain as a good European citizen and the Community's second-biggest contributor.

But she said Britain did not want to see the Community evolve into a United States of Europe, where national parliaments were subservient to a central body.

"We shall never accept the approach of those who want to use the European Community as a means of removing our ability to govern ourselves as an independent nation," Thatcher said.

USSR to devalue rouble by 70%

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet rouble will be devalued by nearly 70 per cent under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reform programme, a Soviet economic official has said.

Ivan Ivanov, deputy chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission, said Thursday that the new exchange rate for dollar, compared with the current .56 rouble to the dollar.

The official news agency TASS quoted Ivanov as telling a legislative committee that the new rate would be introduced by presidential decree.

TASS said the new rate would "make exports more profitable for Soviet producers and facilitate the streamlining and restriction of imports, which have been growing rapidly since Soviet enterprises were granted the right of free access to the foreign market."

Earlier this week, the chairman of the Soviet state bank, Viktor Gerashchenko, also said a devaluation was likely.

"The new rouble's exchange rate for foreign trade operations would amount to about two roubles a dollar, starting this year," TASS quoted Gerashchenko as saying.

Gorbachev's economic plan, which envisions a gradual switch from central planning to a market-based economy, is under consideration by a committee of economists and politicians appointed by the Supreme Soviet.

The committee is scheduled to issue a report by Oct. 15, after which the plan could be approved by the national legislature. Lawmakers already have voted to give Gorbachev emergency powers to "make the transition to a market, and he has begun issuing decrees."

TASS did not say when the devaluation would take effect. But the agency said the rate was calculated on the basis of new Soviet wholesale prices that are scheduled to become effective Jan. 1, 1991.

Ivanov said the devaluation would not affect the exchange rate for tourists converting dollars to roubles at Soviet banks. That rate would remain at six roubles to the dollar, he said.

Unlike most countries' currencies, whose exchange rates fluctuate with free trading on international markets, the rouble's exchange rate is set artificially by the Soviet government. On the black market, one dollar can fetch 15 to 30 roubles.

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Rwandan rebels reportedly kill 57 Zaireans in clash with army

KAKITUMBA, Rwanda (R) — Rwandan rebels said they have killed 57 Zairean soldiers and captured or destroyed army vehicles in heavy fighting in northeast Rwanda.

"The Zaireans were routed and 57 were killed," rebel Major Chris Bunyonyezi said Thursday.

Rebel officers said the Zaireans, who were helping Rwandan troops repulse the guerrillas, were ambushed by about 100 rebels who also destroyed three troop carriers and a tank and captured an armoured personnel carrier.

Most of the rebels, who invaded Rwanda from Uganda on Oct. 1, are Rwandan refugees serving in Uganda's National Resistance Army (NRA).

The rebels showed a Reuters correspondent, uniforms which

they said belonged to members of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's Presidential Guard.

"The problem they suffered from was over-confidence in thinking they could flush out a few rebels because they were presidential guards," Bunyonyezi said.

Belgium and France have also sent troops to Rwanda, but say their forces are there to protect their nationals.

Bunyonyezi said he had just returned from the front and heavy fighting was continuing near the garrison town of Gahiro, some 70 kilometres from the capital Kigali.

The rebels also said they attacked a government convoy near Ngarama 14 kilometres to the west and that white officers were commanding Rwandan

troops.

"Our captain saw two whites directing the vehicles' movements, but he said there could have been more," said Major Peter Bayengana.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Casimir Bizimungu confirmed the fighting in the northeast, but said up to 500 rebels had been killed by government forces. He also denied reports that the army had massacred civilians.

Peasants fleeing the fighting said earlier this week that government troops and members of the majority Hutu tribe had massacred villagers accused of supporting the rebels.

"Three hundred to 500 rebels died in the same place where the massacres are said to have taken place," Bizimungu said. "It's rebels who died," he said.

adding insurgents had worn civilian clothing because "that's their guerrilla tactics."

The rebels said six of their men had been killed and 11 injured. Rwandan troops had shot civilians during the fighting around Gahiro, they added.

"But we are unable to give a figure because we are still fighting in the area," Bunyonyezi said.

In Washington, the United States authorised dependants of American diplomats to leave Rwanda and said it was considering that government's request for military assistance to defend against recent rebel attacks.

The State Department, in a written statement Thursday, said "the only type of assistance under discussion with the Rwandan government is non-lethal, including medical assistance."

Sikh leader quits Indian parliament

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann resigned from parliament Friday in protest against a new extension of direct rule by New Delhi in Punjab and said he would seek United Nations help in freeing the state from India's "colonial" rule.

Mann told a foreign correspondent lunch he no longer had any faith in Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's promise to hold elections in Punjab.

"Elections are the heartbeat of any democracy. The Indian state is not going to hold elections in Punjab because at all costs they do not want to see me holding the mandate," he said.

The next step is to internationalise (the issue) and ask the United Nations to help us out of this slavery. A mighty international effort will be required to get us out of this colonial status," he added.

Singh, who has said that not holding state assembly elections early this year was his biggest blunder, had not wanted a further six-month extension of direct rule first imposed in January, 1987.

But allies on the left and right which keep his minority government in power said free and fair elections could not be held in the violent atmosphere gripping the rich agricultural northern state and he had to give way.

Punjab police have reported more than 2,600 deaths in the separatist campaign this year, the highest toll since it began nearly a decade ago.

Mann said the only solution was a U.N.-supervised referendum so Punjab could decide whether its future should lie within India.

In another development, three people were killed in vicious clashes between backers of an Indian government plan to reserve more jobs for lower-caste Hindus and its opponents, officials said Friday.

Mexicans react with pride to Paz' Nobel Prize win

MEXICO CITY (Agencies) — From president to pushcart vendor, most Mexicans have reacted with pride to Octavio Paz' achievement on being the first Mexican awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Among fellow writers, many of the congratulations were delivered with the air of disdain that characterises the left-leaning intellectual community's attitude toward its senior defector.

"As a poet he has great respect, less as an essayist and more as a politician," fiction writer Paco Ignacio Taibo was quoted as saying by the Excelsior News Service. "I hope that Octavio Paz doesn't become a spokesman for the right."

Paz' criticism of leftist intellectuals has long estranged him from the country's literary mainstream, if such a thing exists. But Mexican writers who have worked with Paz, such as Salvador Elizondo, a collaborator on the magazine Vuelta, called the prize well-deserved.

"In the cultural order it gives distinction to one of the most important figures of the Spanish language," Elizondo said.

"Despite the controversy and disagreement that Paz' ideological position generates, his creative quality is indisputable," said Jaime Labastida, a poet who stands opposed to Paz on many political issues.

In recent months, Paz has been criticised for travelling overseas in the regime of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Salinas, attending meetings in Venezuela Thursday, sent a congratulatory message to Paz.

"He is a poet and writer of whom we Mexicans feel proud. He has a universal stature," said the president, praising Paz for "his deep Mexican and Latin American vision."

Paz is already one of Mexico's best-selling writers. Many students are assigned in school his Labyrinth Of Solitude, a pithy investigation of the Mexican national character.

At the Alameda Park on downtown Mexico City, the award generated excitement among a group of sidewalk bookellers.

Rogelio Galindo of the Sotano

Bookshop said he had sold 250 copies of Paz' latest work, A Small Chronicle of Great Days, the past three months.

"For him it's good. For me, it's marvellous," said Manuel Marquez, as he rushed to rescue his books from an afternoon rain. Scooping them off a patch of cardboard on the sidewalk, Marquez stacked them onto a cart.

"We hope this will lead us to read more books and by all writers," said Ricardo Contreras Plata, who has sold books for 22 years on a busy street corner opposite Mexico's Palace of Fine Arts.

Enrique Fuente, owner of the Madero Bookstore, said the award was "practically a merchandising device" for selling Paz' books.

The Swedish Academy of Letters said Paz, 76, got the four million Swedish crown (\$700,000) award "for impassioned writing with wide horizons, characterised by sensitive intelligence and humanistic integrity."

In perhaps his best known book, The Labyrinth Of Solitude, former diplomat Paz, who once called himself a "disillusioned leftist," offers a controversial and often startling analysis of modern Mexico and the Mexican personality.

The academy, guardian of the world's premier literary award, said that in choosing Paz, a long-time contender, it was "honouring a writer of Spanish with a wide international perspective."

Born in Mexico City on March 31, 1914, Paz attended the National University of Mexico before going abroad as a diplomat. He wrote poetry and essays in his free time.

"Paz' poetry and essays evolve from an intractable but fruitful union of cultures: pre-Colombian Indian, the Spanish conquistadors and Western modernism," the academy said.

Paz published his first collection of poetry while still a teenager. He remains active as a writer and critic.

His distinctive, surrealistic verse has broad appeal and has been well received by critics internationally.

Curfew lifted in S. African townships

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa said Friday it was lifting night curfews clamped on black townships around Johannesburg last month to curb faction fighting which claimed almost 800 lives.

But Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok warned the restrictions could be reimposed if necessary.

The government imposed the curfews and sent army and police reinforcements into seven townships on Sept. 25 in operation "iron fist" after weeks of clashes, mainly between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Police said the curfews would be lifted Friday night from the three townships where they were still in force, and that all security measures would be scaled down. Restrictions in four other townships, including Soweto, were eased last week.

"The curfew has had a phenomenal effect," said police

spokesman Steve van Rooyen, adding there had been 242 cases of unrest in the three areas earlier in September but none since the curfew was imposed.

Other measures under "iron fist" had included mounting light machine guns on armoured cars, helicopter patrols and army and police guards at railway stations to protect commuters.

Hostels and squatter camps which were flashpoints of violence were sealed off with razor wire and all people entering or leaving were searched for weapons.

Vlok said many township residents had asked for the curfew be continued but this was not possible. It had always been seen as a temporary measure, he said.

Mandela has bitterly criticised the "iron fist" measures, saying they were reckless and aimed at destroying ANC support on the ground.

The ANC accuses white right-wing pro-apartheid elements in the security forces of fomenting

the unrest, an allegation rejected by the government.

"The ANC accused President F.W. de Klerk Thursday of no longer being sincere about peace and reform in South Africa."

"We do not trust Mr. De Klerk and his government's commitment to peace. De Klerk and the government's undermining of efforts to achieve a genuine peace settlement places the whole negotiations process in jeopardy," ANC spokesman Saki Macomoza told reporters.

The ANC disclosed that it had delivered its strongest warning yet to De Klerk that it would resume guerrilla warfare if his white minority government failed to satisfy its demands.

The ANC, denouncing what it called De Klerk's "strategy of talking peace and waging war," demanded the government crack down on white provocateurs in the police and army.

ANC officials gave reporters extracts from a statement Mandela presented to the government Monday.

African force takes control of Monrovia

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — West African soldiers using tanks and jet bombers have won control of Monrovia from rebel forces, a military commander has said.

The victory clears the way for the establishment of an interim government and the arrival of desperately needed food.

In fighting this week, the five-nation army sent to impose a ceasefire in Liberia's 9-month-old civil war has forced Charles Taylor's rebel force out of the city centre and into Monrovia's eastern suburb of Paynesville.

Rival rebel leader Prince Johnson pulled his fighters out of central Monrovia this week at Dogonyaro's request. A third force in Monrovia, the remnants of slain President Samuel Doe's army, was held up in and around the presidential mansion.

Some of Doe's soldiers were fighting alongside the West Africans, diplomats in Abidjan reported Thursday.

The Economic Community of West African States, which sent the multinational army, renewed an appeal for emergency food supplies for people starving in Monrovia. Executive Secretary Abbas Bundu said Dogonyaro had assured him the port was safe for ships and that the West Africans had set up posts for an orderly distribution of food.

The U.S. Ambassador in Monrovia, Peter de Vos, has said U.S. food aid would not be brought in until the safety of relief workers was guaranteed.

Nigerian ships this week carried the first substantial food shipment to reach Monrovia in three months — 150 tonnes from the U.N. World Food Programme.

Diplomats in Abidjan captured the West Africans confined Spriggs Payne Airfield, a few kilometres from downtown Monrovia, but said the airport could not be used safely unless the rebels are pushed back at least 16 kilometres.

Diplomats said Ghanaian troops and some Liberian army soldiers went into the West German embassy neighbouring Paynesville Wednesday. The said they were conducting house-to-house searches for rebels, but the Liberians started looting.

Aquino signs over southern Philippines to partial Muslim rule

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino signed over partial rule of the southern Philippines Friday to a Muslim autonomous government but retained responsibility for defence and foreign policy.

"We view local autonomy as the best approach for achieving lasting peace in Mindanao," Aquino said in a speech marking the handover to an autonomous government on the southern island.

The handover of power would send a message to Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) nations that Manila was serious in granting self-rule to its Muslim minority, he said.

"Today's ceremonies mark only the first step towards transferring to the autonomous regional government substantial powers, functions and resources to carry out the great task," Aquino said.

He said the order gives the southern government, led by former Muslim rebel Zacario Candao, control over labour, social welfare, science, public works and highways.

The Mindanao government will

control taxes, fees on the region's natural resources, and tourism receipts.

The autonomous government — made up of five predominantly Muslim provinces on Mindanao Island — was set up by the Aquino government to placate warring Muslim separatists.

Up to 50,000 people died at the height of a separatist war by Muslim guerrillas in the mid-1970s.

Residents on the mineral-rich island have complained of neglect by Manila, saying their resources have been used to develop the main island of Luzon.

Meanwhile a judge Friday indefinitely suspended the rebellion trial of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and two others until the court of appeals rules on several petitions filed by the defendants.

Also Friday, the government filed the first rebellion charges in connection with last week's two-day secessionist revolt by mutinous troops on the island of Mindanao.

Enrile and two others — Mr. and Mrs. Rebecca Panilio — were to have been arraigned on

rebellion charges in connection with a failed coup attempt last December.

But the trial judge, Jaime Salazar, noted that the three defendants have filed petitions with the court of appeals to quash the case.

"In view of the fact that there is no certainty that these petitions will be resolved by court of appeals, the trial of these cases is hereby suspended indefinitely until this court hears from court of appeals on what to do with this case," Salazar told the court.

In the Mindanao rebellion, Justice Undersecretary Silvestre Belon III said the local prosecutor's office filed charges of "illegal possession of firearms and ammunition in furtherance of rebellion" against Reuben Canoy, former mayor of the southern city of Cagayan de Oro.

Canoy heads the Mindanao Independence Movement.

Bello said firearms and ammunition were recovered by police from Canoy's house in Cagayan de Oro. Canoy earlier was charged with illegal assembly.

U.S. aid to Pakistan halted in nuclear debate

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. fighter jets worth millions of dollars are among the items and programmes that will be affected if the United States continues a halt in aid to Pakistan, U.S. officials said.

Because of concerns over Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, President George Bush has been unable to certify that Islamabad does not possess a nuclear device, as required by U.S. law.

Congressional leaders have so far blocked administration efforts to waive the law.

As a result, about \$564 million

in new military and economic aid designated for Pakistan for the 1991 financial year that began Oct. 1 has about \$2.7 billion in previously authorised military aid and unsubsidised military sales, U.S. officials said.

This includes an order of 11 advanced F-16 fighter jets, financed under the U.S. foreign military sales programme, that was scheduled for shipment to Pakistan in early 1991 and an order of 60 F-16s, scheduled for delivery in late 1991, that Islamabad was paying for itself, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Bush wins B-2 bomber victory after appeal

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has won a preliminary victory for the B-2 Stealth bomber programme after he and the air force made last-minute appeals to Congress to approve the problem-plagued plane.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved continued B-2 production in a \$268.2-billion defence appropriations bill for next year, and rejected an amendment that would have halted production of the bomber

at six test planes. However, the radar-evading bomber's future remained in doubt. The Senate has consistently approved Bush's request but the House has voted to halt B-2 production with the 15 planes already approved.

Senators and members of the House of Representatives working out a compromise 1991 defence authorisation bill expected to decide this week whether the bill should continue B-2 production or halt it at 15 planes.

Third of Romania's ethnic Germans seek to emigrate

BUCHAREST (AP) — More than a third of Romania's ethnic Germans have lined up to leave the country since Communist Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu fell last December, according to figures released Thursday.

The Interior Ministry, in a statement carried by state news agency Rompres, said 92,650 of Romania's ethnic Germans, estimated to total about 220,000 at the time of the revolution, already had passports to leave the country.

About 70,000 of them already have left, the ministry said.

The ethnic Germans are among

120,603 people who have applied to leave since Ceausescu's ouster, the statement said. Independent sources say the real figure is much higher.

Since the elimination of travel restrictions after the revolution, more than 10 million Romanians of a population of 23 million have gone as tourists.

Diplomatic sources say millions want to remain outside Romania. But because Romanians no longer qualify for the refugee status they had when the country was a dictatorship, Western countries have rejected most would-be emigrants.

Former top Stasi officers arrested

BONN (R) — Two former East German agents have been charged with being the case officers for a Bonn super-spy whose confession has sparked a major espionage scandal, officials said Friday.

The public prosecutor said Stefan E. and Guenther N. from Berlin were arrested Wednesday and charged Thursday with directing the work of double agent Klaus Kuron.

Ten suspected spies have been arrested this week following an admission by Kuron, a senior Bonn counter-intelligence officer, that he had passed secrets on to East Berlin.

The prosecutor said in a statement that Stefan E. 36, and Guenther N. 54, worked for the Foreign Espionage section of East Berlin's Ministry for State Security (Stasi).

Guenther N. had led the Stasi department that specialised in planting agents in Bonn's counter-intelligence agency, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), which specialised in planting agents in Bonn's counter-intelligence agency. Stefan E. was his number two.

Both were charged with being Kuron's case officers from 1982 until this year.

Guenther N. stopped working for the Stasi when it was officially disbanded in February, but Stefan E. had tried to persuade Kuron to work for the Soviet KGB as late as last Saturday — three days after East Germany ceased to exist.

Their arrests, announced by security sources Thursday, brings to 12 the number of people detained in two weeks.

The prosecutor also said a 40-year-old man from Hanover, Gerd K., had been charged with spying for the Stasi after his arrest Wednesday.

Eight other people arrested Wednesday had allegedly passed plans for tanks, military helicopters, defence research and the Tornado fighter-bomber to East German and Soviet intelligence, the prosecutor said earlier.

The Cologne Express newspaper said Kuron gave himself up to his superiors after his last meeting with his contacts.

A woman agent, who helped prepare intelligence briefings for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, was arrested two weeks ago as she tried to flee to Austria. She has also been charged with working for the former Communist authorities in East Germany.

Ozone levels near record low over South Pole

WASHINGTON (R) — The protective layer of ozone over the South Pole is as depleted as it was in the worst years ever recorded, the U.S. space agency reported Thursday.

The so-called ozone hole over the Antarctic, which reappears every year, began developing in the last week of August, about a week earlier than in the record years of 1987 and 1989, according to scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Ozone levels throughout the southern hemisphere are as low as they have ever been, NASA said in a statement.

The implication of a drop in ozone levels is not known, but environmentalists say human-made chemicals in the atmosphere destroy the protective layer.

NASA said year-to-year variability in ozone depletion appears to be related to the weather and atmospheric chemistry.

Ozone, a molecule made up of three oxygen atoms, comprises a thin layer of the upper atmosphere that shields Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

NASA scientists have been monitoring the Antarctic ozone

hole since 1979. Meanwhile in Bangkok, efforts by China and India to turn a U.N.-sponsored environment conference into a confrontation between rich and poor nations have failed to win support, diplomats said.

An informal working group of environment experts from 20 Asian and Pacific nations was meeting here Friday behind closed doors.

They were expected to substantially approve United Nations recommendations to make the region's development plans sensitive to the natural environment, a senior diplomat attending the meeting told Reuters.

Their conference room contained quite another scene Thursday.

"Smoke was coming out of ears in there," a U.N. official said. "Basically, India and China, especially China, wanted the conference to say 'you damn capitalists, you created the environmental mess, now you pay to clean it up,'" the diplomat said.

Many Third World governments, dependent for meagre incomes on exports of commodities, timber and ore, have expressed resentment at pressure from the industrialised countries

of the northern hemisphere to conserve natural resources.

The working group is drafting a document that will be presented for approval to the full meeting of more than 30 governments attending the conference, organised by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The plenary meeting will make recommendations to government ministers who arrive here next week to set an environmental policy guiding Asia and the Pacific into the 21st century.

The policy will also serve as a guideline for Asian demands at a global environmental conference the United Nations will host in Brazil in 1992.

Another U.N. official, asked why the working group had rejected the Indian and Chinese proposals, said: "There will be lots of money available in Brazil for countries that have sustainable development programmes."

"Environmentally sound and sustainable development" is at the heart of ESCAP recommendations to the conference.

Thursday's working group meeting lasted into the night, preventing the group's chairman from making his scheduled initial report to the plenary session.

"In the end, the Chinese gave up on about 99 per cent of their demands," the senior diplomat said.

"The ESCAP recommendations are now likely to be substantially approved," he said.

In a separate development, the Australian government committed the country Friday to tough guidelines for reducing greenhouse gases, planning a 20 per cent cut in all major emissions contributing to global warming.

The plan is intended to slash emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide by 20 per cent by 2005.

Based on 1988 levels, it is an extension of the 1988 international agreement signed in Toronto which covers only a 20 per cent cut by 2005 in carbon dioxide levels.

"This decision puts Australia at the forefront of international action to reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases," the minister for the arts, sport, environment, tourism and territories, Ros Kelly, and minister for primary industries and energy, John Kerin said in a statement Friday.

It will complement Australia's existing policy of phasing out ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons by 1997, the ministers said.

COLUMN

Hold-up note written on robber's deposit slip

PENTICTON, British Columbia (AP) — Authorities did not have to look too hard for the man who robbed a Canada Trust Branch. Craig MacNaughton, 31, of near-by Kelowna wrote the holdup note on one of his deposit slips. MacNaughton, pleaded guilty to robbery in provincial court and was sentenced to three years in jail. On Aug. 25, MacNaughton handed a teller a note, produced a large knife and said, "give me your money, I need it." Prosecutor Vern Frolick told the court. The teller gave MacNaughton \$1,296 and he fled the bank in this south-central British Columbia city. When the Royal Canadian Mounted Police examined the robbery note, they saw it was written on the back of a Canada Trust deposit slip, with MacNaughton's branch and account number filled in, Frolick said. Defence attorney Brian Adams said the robbery was a cry to help. "I think what we're dealing with is a person of some diminished capacity," Adams said. MacNaughton has a criminal record that includes theft and break-and-entry charges dating from 1975, the court was told.

Judge ignores law in sentence for 83-year-old

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge ignored the legal minimum sentence and ordered a drug defendant to spend less than two months in prison, saying Congress never intended him to imprison an 83-year-old man for 12 years. Attorneys said they knew of no precedent for chief U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King's departure from federal law and sentencing guidelines in the case of Alfonso Valdes. He ordered Valdes freed by Dec. 1, his birthday. Valdes has been in jail since his arrest in June 1989 for guiding a boatload of Colombian cocaine into Florida from Mexico. "These are extraordinary circumstances," King said from the bench. "I mean no disrespect to Congress and no disrespect to the sentencing commission." The judge observed that Valdes would be 96 when released under sentencing guidelines, which call for 12½ years, and almost 94 under the statutory 10-year minimum. "That would be a little late to start a new life," King noted. The defendant quietly thanked the judge. Valdes, a Cuban immigrant and a Key West resident since 1962, was convicted this summer of importing cocaine, possession with intent to distribute, and two drug conspiracy counts. His trial was interrupted briefly when he suffered heart problems.

Man held for stealing panties

TOKYO (R) — A 46-year-old restaurant manager has been arrested on suspicion of stealing 750 pairs of women's panties, a police spokesman said Friday. Shousaku Abe, a married man of Utsunomiya, 100 kilometres north of Tokyo, hid the lingerie collection in his two cars, the spokesman said. Abe developed an obsession with women's underwear three years ago after he stopped having sex with his wife, the spokesman said.

Instant 'cuppas' for tea-loving Britons

LONDON (AP) — In a country where tea is not just a beverage but a social event, two companies are betting consumers will drop the messy ritual of brewing leaves or bags and go for granules. But are Britons ready to have their favourite drink — or "cuppa" — any other way? Nestle failed to woo tea drinkers with an instant version more than a decade ago, and many Britons are still horrified by office instant tea made by machines. A spot check on a London street found Britons unenthusiastic about the idea of tea granules, which Brooke Bond said Wednesday they will begin distributing nationwide. "That would be dreadful," said Grahame Trotter, a 48-year-old electrical engineer. "We have instant tea in machines in the office and it's really